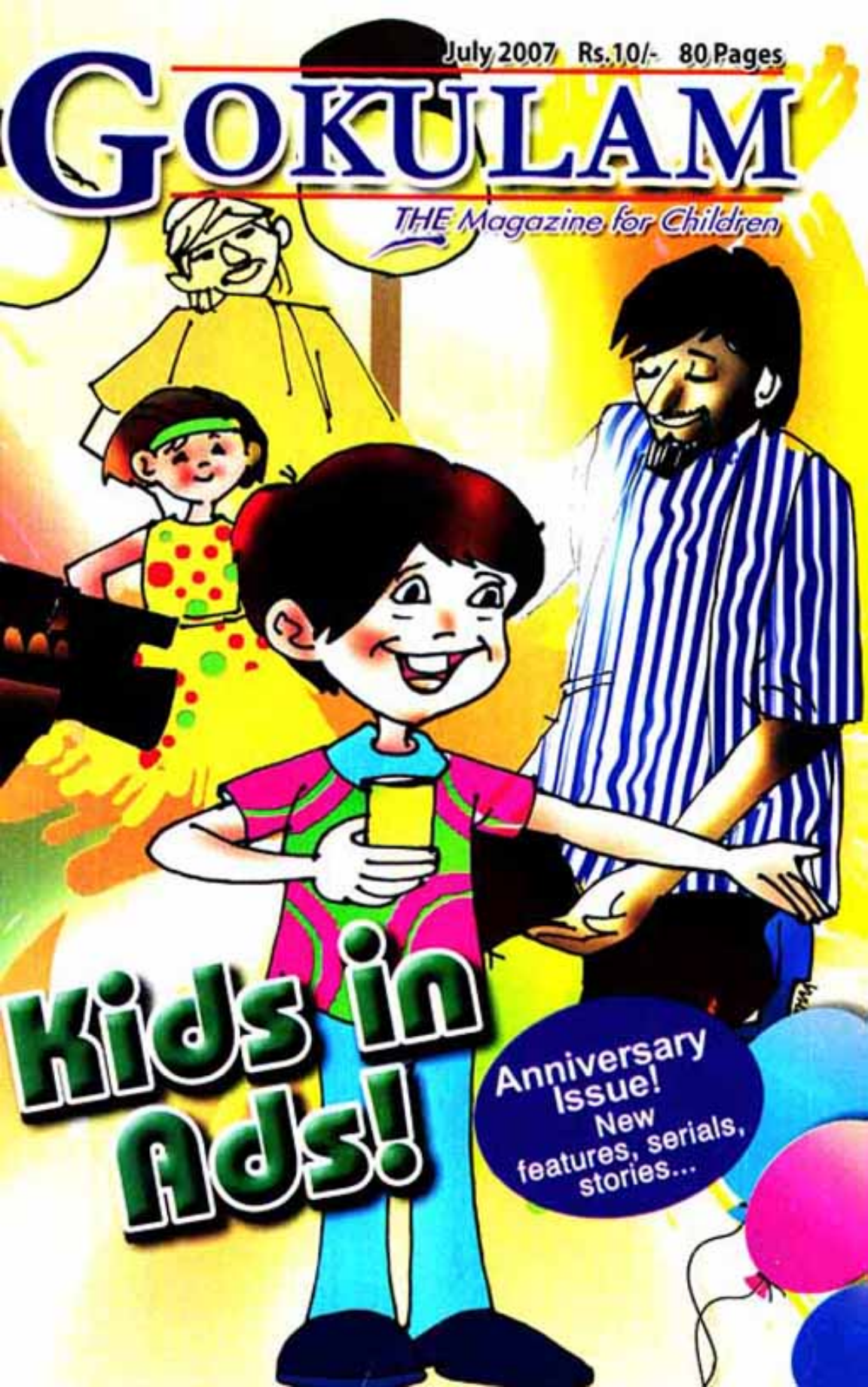
July 2007 Rs.10/- 80 Pages

GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children



Kids in Ads!

Anniversary Issue!
New features, serials, stories...

PARLE
MMM...POPPINS!
Ram and Shyam
The Painter
POPPINS
RAM AND SHYAM ARE ON HOLIDAY IN ROME. AS THEY ARE WALKING THROUGH THE STREETS THEY COME ACROSS A MAN LOOKING VERY WORRIED.
WHAT HAPPENED SIR?
I AM THE GREAT PAINTER RANGOLO. YESTERDAY NIGHT I LEFT MY GREATEST PAINTING OUT TO DRY, BUT IT RAINED UNEXPECTEDLY AND NOW IT'S COMPLETELY RUINED.
I HAVE TO FINISH IT IN A FEW HOURS FOR THE EXHIBITION, BUT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE.
BUT WHAT CAN TWO LITTLE BOYS DO?
DON'T WORRY, WE'LL HELP YOU.
JUST WAIT AND SEE!
RAM AND SHYAM IMMEDIATELY WHIP OUT THE PACK OF POPPINS FROM THEIR WRISTBANDS
EATING THEIR FAVOURITE POPPINS THEY CHANT THE MAGIC RHYME
WITH THE COLOURS OF POPPINS YOUR WORRIES WILL CEASE.
AND TURN THIS PAINTING INTO A MASTERPIECE.
AS THEY EAT EACH ONE, THE PAINTING SLOWLY STARTS TO FILL UP
IN NO TIME THE PAINTING IS FINISHED
MAMA MIA, IT IS A MIRACLE. IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL. NOW MY EXHIBITION WILL BE A GREAT SUCCESS.
COULD I HAVE A PACKET OF POPPINS AS WELL?
ALL THANKS TO OUR COLOURFUL POPPINS.
POPPINS
GOLI RAINBOW

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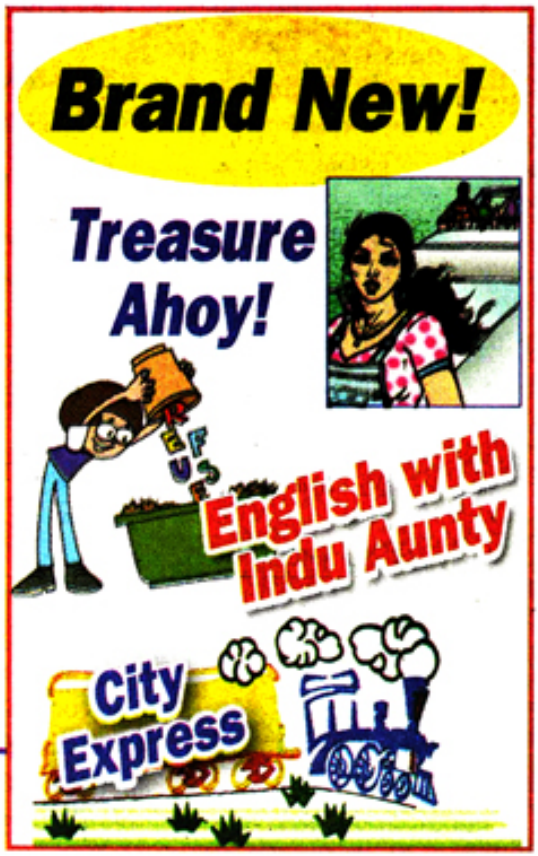
Grandma Worm, View Point, Jokes, Hello Doctor, Colour Burst, News, Penpals

The drawing featured on top of each page is by **Jayalalitha B.Iyer,** Std.VII, Mahila Samiti English High School, Mumbai

Competition Results on Pages 3, 10 and 65!



JULY 2007
Vol.XX, No.1

KALKI GROUP
HOUSE of QUALITY

Of all created things the loveliest.
And most divine are children.
-William Canton

GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children

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HOUSE of QUALITY

GOKULAM

printed and published at
Bharathan Press
on behalf of
Bharathan Publications
Private Limited
Kalki buildings,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal,
Chennai - 600 032

printer and publisher :
Lakshmi Natarajan

editor:
Seetha Ravi

layouts :
S.Stephen
M.Mohan
S.Karthikeyan

telephones :
2225 1522,
2225 0623,
2225 1324

fax :
044 - 2225 1021

e-mails :
editorial :
gokulam@kalkiweekly.com

subscriptions :
subscription@kalkiweekly.com

other information :
info@kalkiweekly.com

subscription rates :
Inland : annual
Rs.120/-
overseas : annual
26 US Dollars

THE Magazine for Children

The Value of Life

Dear Reader,

It's school reopening time and for some of you it's time to enter college. School or college, time is the key word.

Probably you never looked at the wall clock during the hols. But now, every second counts.

"To ascertain the value of one minute,
ask a person who missed a train;
To find out the value of one second,
ask a person who survived an accident;
To realise the value of a split second,
ask a sportsman who won the silver medal."

The above is part of a school poem and you are probably familiar with the entire poem.

But we often forget the value of time. It is

also difficult to adjust to a time table after a lazy holiday spell.

Time management is not only for work; but also for leisure, friendship, family and society. It has become so important that books are written, lectures given and courses held on time management.

However all the positive thoughts about time have been summed up in a single sentence by Nelson in his famous quote : "Do you know the value of time? If so, you know the value of life itself!"

- Editor

GOKULAM -World Cup 2007 Competition Results:

There were entries galore for the Gokulam - World Cup 2007 competition and we sure had a tough time sifting through them to pick the best ones!

Our judge for the competition :

Mr.Badri Seshadri

a passionate cricket fan and a co-founder of the website **www.cricinfo.com.**

Here are the prize-winning entries. Mcgrath and Hayden were the 'constant factors' of most entries.

First Prize
Rs.1000
The winner :
Sowmya Vasudevan, Std.VIII, Mahatma Gandhi Centenary Vidyalaya, Trichy

• Badri Seshadri
(Photo : Srihari)

1. Glenn Mcgrath the 37 year old fast bowler, playing his last tournament, created a number of records. He was named player of the tournament too. Claiming 26 wickets, he emerged the most successful player of the series.

2. Mathew Hayden who scored 659 runs in this tournament is my choice for second best player. He

scored the fastest world cup century off 66 balls and was one of the main reasons behind Australia's victory.

3. Ricky Ponting ranks third in my list. The Australian skipper was both efficient and encouraging and under his captaincy the team simply waltzed through to victory. He was also the third leading run-getter of the series with 539 runs!

Second Prize Rs.750

The winner :

V.M. Vivek Mohan, Std.XI, St. Xavier's Collegiate School

1. Glenn Mcgrath tops my list. With 26 wickets in 11 matches he managed to maintain the average runs conceded per over at 4.41. His nagging consistency in picking up wickets was truly amazing.

2. Mathew Hayden scored runs with consistency. 659 runs from 11 matches, an average of 73.22 and a strike rate of 101.07 with three hundreds and one fifty! It included the fastest century ever scored in the world cup as well - off 66 balls!

Ricky Ponting

Glenn McGrath

Matthew Hayden

3. Adam Gilchrist - exceptional both at batting and as a wicket - keeper. 17 dismissals from 11 matches - the highest in this tournament! 453 runs - which includes a century and two fifties. A strike rate of 103.89 and the anchor of Australia's hat-trick.

Third prize Rs.500,
divided between

M.V.S.Harshith, Std.IX, Bhavan's Ramakrishna Vidyalaya, Secunderabad

and

K.Raghuraj, Std.X, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Chennai - 600 027

Their entries and interview with ***Mr. Badri Seshadri*** *will appear in August 2007 issue of Gokulam*

Complied by :

Manasa

Attention,

All Gokulam Readers and Contributors!

Most of you have been sending us jokes, facts and snippets gathered from the internet or G.K. books. Do show us how original you can be... Here are a few suggestions :

★ Write in about the unique programmes or ceremonies that take place in your school.

★ Collect and send us information about your own town, city, village or state.

★ Interview a local celebrity or achiever and send us a write-up. Make sure to enclose photographs for this.

★ You may contribute to the new City Express column which begins this month. We have begun with the capital city and will be featuring Mumbai next month and Kolkatta in August. Try to send rare and interesting details about these cities.

Above all, make sure you put down your

Name
Class
School Name &
Residential Address in

Each and every contribution you send!

Remember **N C S R E** and check before you mail or post your contributions.

If you are compiling information remember to mention the source and

NEVER EVER COPY!

Hop on to the **City Express** which takes you through New Delhi!

New Delhi, India's capital city is laid out over 1483 sq. km. The population is around 14 million (including old Delhi).

It lies on the western bank of the Yamuna river. Hindi, Urudu and Punjabi are the languages spoken commonly.

City Express

The Clean

Lux and her brother Arun entered the kitchen eagerly to tell their mother about the community drive they were planning to organize next Sunday. "Mom," said Lux, The drive is to make people living in our neighbourhood aware of their roles in keeping our streets clean and beautiful."

Proud of her children's idea, the mother said smilingly, "That is wonderful, kids. But you may have to explain to our neighbours what a drive means. They shouldn't think it is a day to get into their cars and drive!"

"You are right as always, Mom," said Arun, "The drive we are talking about is a noun that means a united effort to achieve a specified goal." By then dinner was ready and the brother and sister ate hot chappatis with vegetables and discussed the various other meanings of the word drive.

The week went by quickly and it was the day of the drive! Everyone who lived in the neighbourhood gathered in the central park. Lux climbed up a stone to address the crowd. "All of us have complained about our filthy surroundings at some point but today we are all going to do something about it. Today, we will clean our streets and leave no stone unturned in our efforts to create a beautiful and clean neighbourhood."

Mira aunty raised her voice in concern and said, "But, child, it will

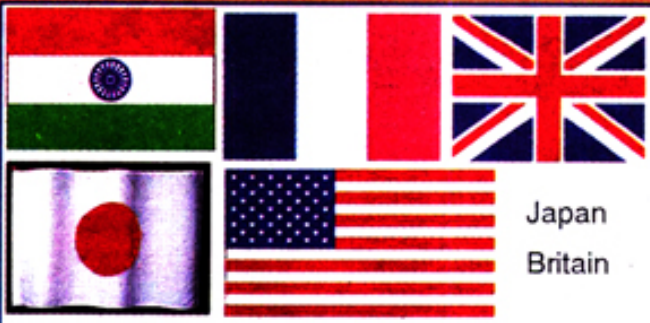
take us all day to turn every stone and what is the purpose of that, anyway?" Lux suppressed her smile and explained to Mira aunty that to leave no stone unturned is an expression that means to

UP DRIVE

make every possible effort to achieve a goal. Mira aunty smiled sheepishly. She and others in the crowd started to pick up plastic bags, bottles, paper and other items from the streets and the park.

As the day came to a close, Lux and Arun gave out lemon juice to everyone. Arun clapped to get everyone's attention to deliver his thanks and said, "We have all done a fantastic job of cleaning our neighbourhood. Now let us all refuse to throw refuse on our streets and in the park."

Everyone smiled at the clever use of the word refuse. As a verb, the word "refuse" meant to decline



NATIONAL ANTHEMS

India	- Jana Gana Mana
France	- La Marseilles
U.S.A.	- The Star Spangled Banner
Japan	- Kimit Gayo
Britain	- God Save The Queen

Compiled by : **S.Smitha, Std.VIII, Cambridge Public School, Bengalooru**

or say no, while as a noun, it meant garbage!

As Lux and Arun walked home with their parents after the drive, Dad said, "Well, at first, I was not sure if this was going to work and I kept my fingers crossed. But the drive was a roaring success." The kids knew that to keep one's fingers crossed was to hope that nothing would happen to ruin one's plan and the word roaring used as an adjective meant complete or utter. Arun and Lux looked up at the smiling faces of their parents and danced the rest of the way home singing and laughing.

Homework Box!

Dear readers,

I hope you enjoyed learning the words and phrases used in this story while also learning about your role in keeping your streets clean. As an exercise, can you think of some other meanings for the word drive? Do you know what "suppress a smile" or "smile sheepishly" mean? Do you know what are nouns, verbs and adjectives? Ask your parents, teachers and friends and write back to : Indu Aunty, C/o Gokulam, Chennai - 600 032.

Your emails may be sent to gokulam@kalkiweekly.com

Medicine

Aloe Vera

Tulsi and neem are familiar medicinal plants. Aloe vera is also well known for its medicinal value.

The leaves of aloe vera are long and fleshy with thorny prickles along their margin. It is a plant which comes from the family of lilly and onion. Of the several hundred varieties of aloe vera, only a few have medicinal properties.

The pulp of the leaf is used in the treatment of stomach ache, cough and asthma. It is also used to treat skin diseases. Many cosmetics contain aloe vera.

Aloe vera contains :

Vitamins : Almost all the vitamins except vitamin D are found in it.

Minerals : It has sodium, calcium, potassium, manganese, magnesium, copper, zinc, chromium and the antioxidant selenium.

Sugars : These are derived from the mucilage layer of the plant which surround the inner gel and are known as mucopolysacharides. They help to enhance our immune system.

Internal uses :

* There are evidences of aloe vera juice being effective medicine for arthritis and eczema.

* Half a cup of aloe vera juice taken in the morning and evening helps to reduce inflammation of the colon, constipation etc.

* In case of acidity, gastric and duodenal ulcer, one or two ounces of aloe vera juice a day reduces the pain and accelerates healing.

* Aloe vera also helps to reduce cramps.

(Source : Health Book and my mother.)

- Kousalya Narendran, Std.X, Vasant Vihar High School and Jr. College, Thane

Nature's Admirable

Nature's gifts are boundless like the love of parents for their children. Among these gifts, water resources bring joy to most people. Water falls which break out from water resources like lakes and rivers, are a feast to the eye and mind.

The Niagara Falls :

Niagara falls is one of the most spectacular falls in the world. Three huge water falls - American falls, Bridal Veil falls and Horseshoe falls are collectively called Niagara falls. This is the second largest waterfall on earth. It forms the international boundary between USA and Canada.

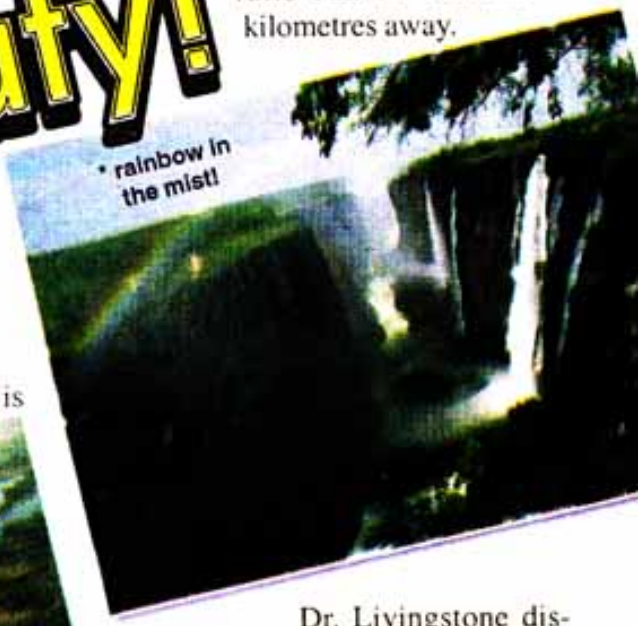
Angel Falls :

Located in Venezuela, Angel falls is the world's highest waterfall with a total drop of 3,212 feet and an uninterrupted drop of 2,648 feet.

• Angel falls

among the most beautiful waterfalls. It is formed by the Zambezi river. The waterfall is almost 2 km wide at one point and plunges noisily down 99 m. When the Zambezi river is in full flood, this waterfall forms the largest curtain of falling water in the world. The mist raised by the falls can be seen 20 kilometres away.

Beauty!



• rainbow in the mist!

Angel falls is 16 times the height of Niagara falls!

Victoria Falls :

Victoria falls (Zimbabwe) is

• Victoria falls

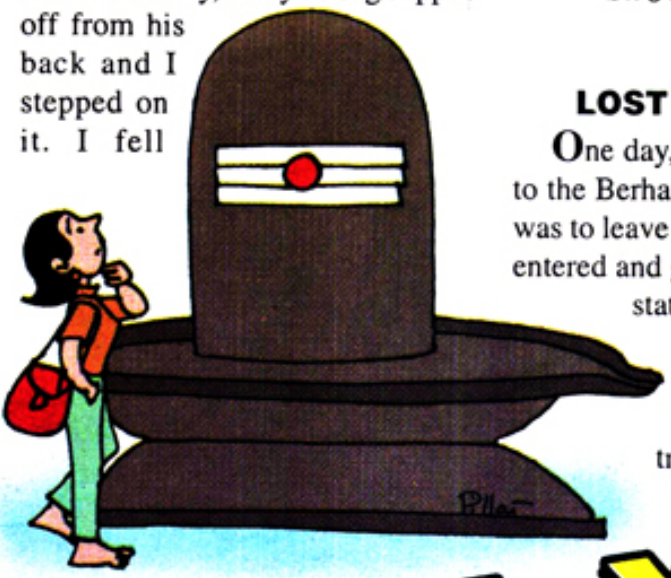
Dr. Livingstone discovered this in 1855 and named it in honour of Queen Victoria.

(Source : G.K.Book)

- N.Akilandeswari, Std.VII, Vyasa Vidyalaya MHSS, Chennai

Experience

When I was studying in the third standard, I had an accident in my school. On one morning, my friend Aditya Venkatraman and I were walking in the corridor of our school with our bags, to go to the class. Suddenly, Aditya's bag slipped off from his back and I stepped on it. I fell down and my bag fell on my left hand. As a result, my hand got fractured. It was very painful. When I was taking rest in my home, my sister Ramyasree who studied in the same school, used to go to my class every day to write notes for me during lunch break and intervals. As this accident occurred before my half-yearly exams Ramyasree had to work doubly hard for my sake. Thank you sister!



- Ch. Vishal Anand, Std.V
St. Joseph's Public School,
Hyderabad

LOST AND FOUND!

One day, I went with my father to the Berhampur railway station. I was to leave for Bhubaneshwar. We entered and got seats. In one of the stations inbetween my father got down to fill the water bottle. Suddenly, to my anxiety the train started to move. It started gaining speed but my father was nowhere to be seen, I started crying. Other passengers promised to help. One of the passengers tried to contact the station authorities, where my father had got down; but the network problem jammed his phone! I was crying louder by this time but I stopped suddenly to see my father coming quietly with another person! My father

Thank You

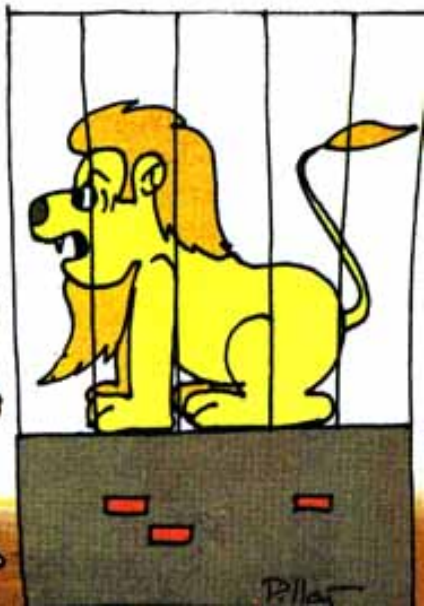
PRICKLY RIDE!

We went to the zoo for a picnic : We roamed around and were excited. I saw different kinds of birds - pelicans, peacocks, toucan, ostriches etc. We found the monkeys very funny as they tried to imitate us. We were watching lions in a cage when one of them gave a terrific roar. I was so scared that I jumped two feet back! Everyone laughed at me. We went for elephant and camel rides. Climbing the elephant was so difficult. Its thick hair kept on hurting me like needles. The camel started moving before I climbed on it! I sat on its hump

Sister!

then explained. He had met his friend in another compartment of the same train and got into it to talk to him. They had both walked through the vestibule to reach me. In the meanwhile I had panicked and started crying! My father thanked the other passengers who had tried to help me.

- T.Krishnakumari,
Std.VI,
AEC School,
Orissa



and as it took its breath, the hump rose up. I too moved with the hump! Suddenly I realised I was seated high up... I looked down and felt that I was going to faint! At last I got down. I can't forget my visit to the zoo. I also learnt that we should not hurt animals but love them.

- A.Lakshmi, Std.VII,
Chinmaya Vidyalaya,
Tripunithura

UNBELIEVABLE

When I came from Dubai on summer vacation, I went to Coimbatore in Tamilnadu. There we visited a place called Isha Yoga Centre. It was wonderful. I have no words to describe it. It was so quiet and calm. The climate was chill. After some time it rained. There was a painting done with natural colours extracted from plants. A Sivalingam made out of mercury (padarasam) was placed in cold water. We were allowed to stand in the water. After standing for a while, we could feel some vibrations in us. It was unbelievable. I learnt that Isha Yoga Centre was started by Jaggi Vasudev. It is meant for people of all religions and cultures.

- S.M.Akila, Std.VIII,
Virudunagar

A GOOD LESSON

Once during Christmas vacation, my family and I had gone to Conoor where my grandparents stay. During our visit we went to a park. As Conoor was a hillstation there were many slopes. Many children were climbing a slope. So my brother and I also started climbing. I had reached first to the top and started climbing down. As it took a long time to trudge downwards, I lost my patience and started running. But suddenly I lost control and in a few minutes I was on the ground with a severe knee injury. From then I have learnt not to become impatient.

- U.Varsha, Age 13,
Kolkatta

For the Antique Look!

Hi friends! Would you like to be a bit ancient?... I mean to say, would you like to write on ancient paper? This is how you can make your own ancient paper:

You will need: Some sheets of white paper, ½ a spoon of coffee powder, water and a paint brush.

Method: Put the coffee powder in some water and mix well. Take a brush and dip in the coffee - water mixture and paint the paper well. Let it dry for two to three hours. Your ancient paper is ready!

You can use this paper for your history assignment. It looks good when you write on it with a fountain (ink) pen.

(Source- My friend told me this)

- Krishnaveni .K,
Std IX, SIES, Mumbai

VIOLENCE in the Land of Gandhi!

It is unfortunate that violent agitations have become so common in a land which calls Gandhiji the "father of the nation." The office of Dinakaran news paper were ransacked by supporters of M.K.Alagiri, son of chief minister Karunanidhi. The Madurai edition of the news paper had conducted an opinion poll according to which, M.K. Stalin another son of Karunanidhi and Dayanidhi Maran also related to Karunanidhi were declared more popular than M.K. Alagiri. This led to an attack and arson in which three employees of the news paper died.

• who is...

• ... more popular?

• astounding victory

Agitation in Punjab followed an advertisement featuring "Dera Sacha Souda" chief in the attire of Guru Gobind Singh. The Akal Takht vehemently opposed this and after prolonged agitation the Dera chief apologised to Guru Gobind Singh!

There was a bomb blast in Hyderabad's Mecca Masjid in which ten people were killed and 50 injured. The 'Jaish-e-Mohammed' and 'Harkat Ul Jihad Islami' are organizations suspected to be behind the cruel attack and the motive is to create communal disturbances.

Mayavathi has won in U.P. with a clear majority for her party and has formed a government. Her astounding success stemmed from her campaign formula by which she asked the support of the forward communities also. "This is not Bahujan Samaj Party but Sarvajan Samaj Party", she said after victory.

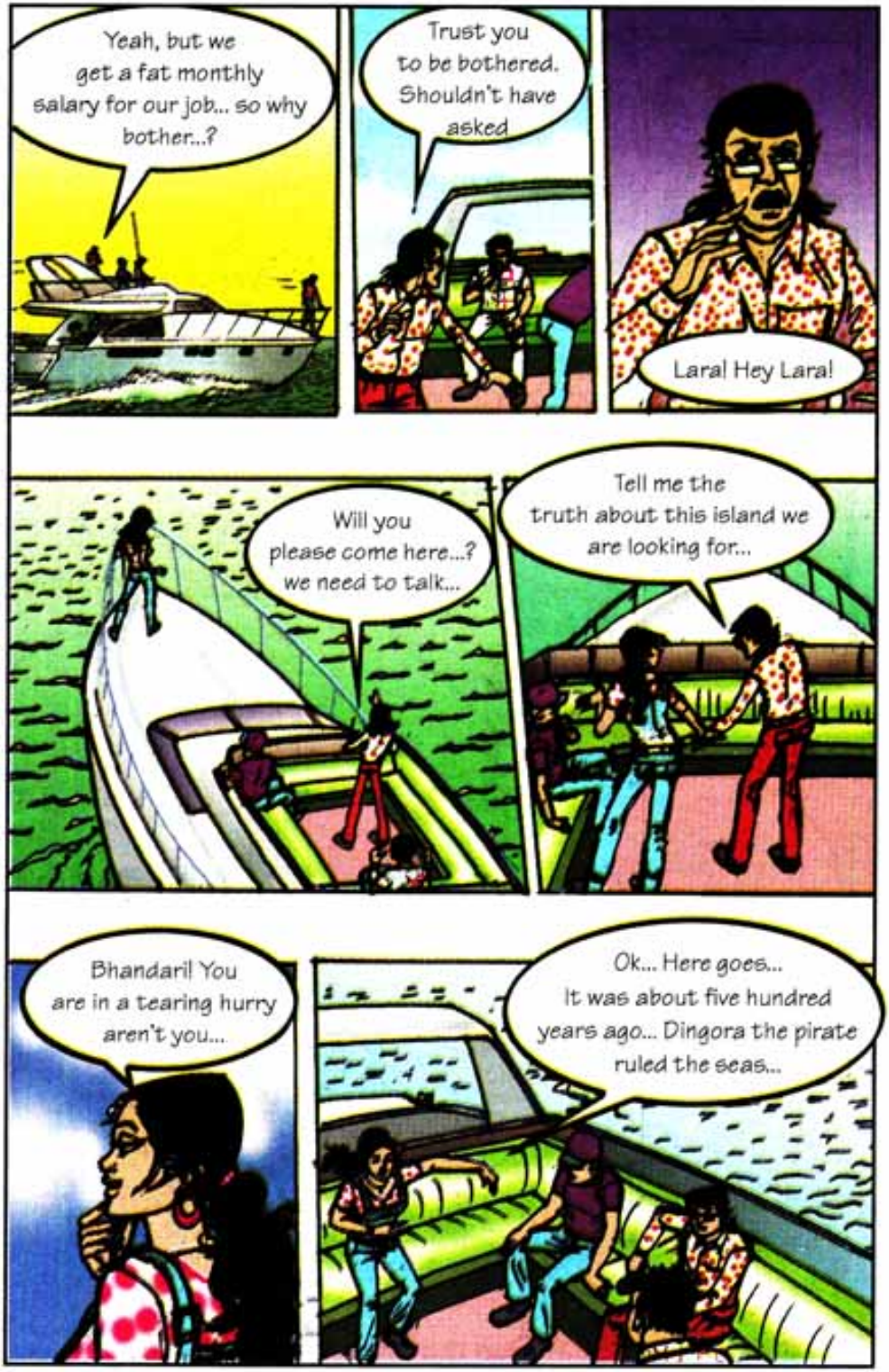
A New Picture story

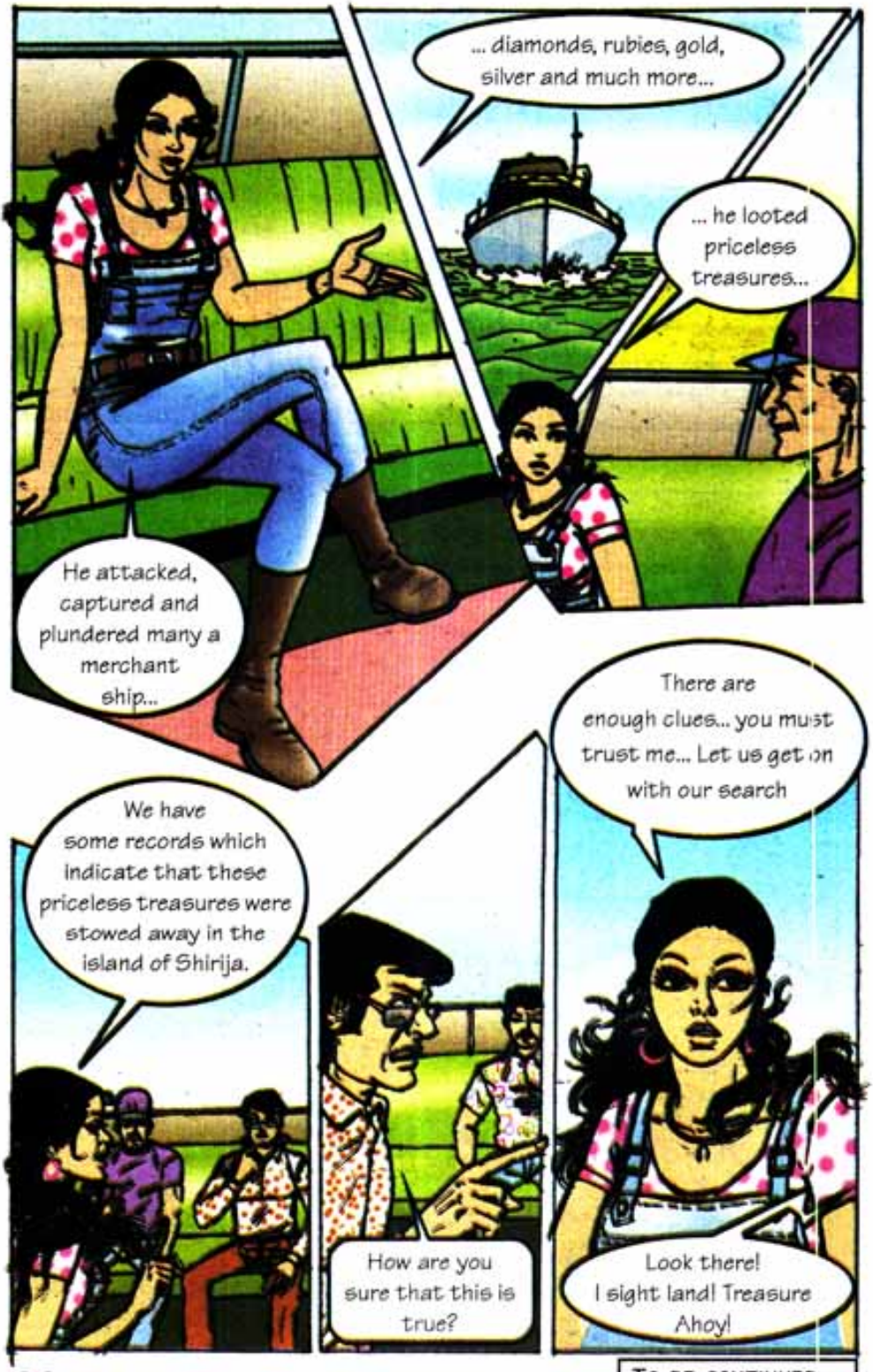
In a boat which sped across the vast blue sea...

Story, Pictures: Dharma

Treasure Ahoy!

Do you believe we can find it Baldy?
I am not Baldy; call me Rocky.
Ok Rocky, I am sorry. Will we find the island?
Hey, Siddarth! Do you believe that the wonder island exists?
But we've searched the seas high and low and are yet to sight it...!
Don't you think its a bit late in the day to raise this question?


Yeah, but we get a fat monthly salary for our job... so why bother...?
Trust you to be bothered. Shouldn't have asked
Lara! Hey Lara!
Will you please come here...? we need to talk...
Tell me the truth about this island we are looking for...
Bhandari! You are in a tearing hurry aren't you...
Ok... Here goes... It was about five hundred years ago... Dingora the pirate ruled the seas...



TO BE CONTINUED...

ALOO CHAT

16 baby potatoes, boiled and peeled
1 small onion
1 tomato
1 capsicum
1 tablespoon lemon juice
½ teaspoon sugar
1½ teaspoons chaat masala
Salt to taste
1 tablespoon chopped coriander leaves

METHOD:

Peel the onion and cut into small pieces. Cut the tomatoes into cubes. Cut the capsicum into half. Remove the seeds and cut into small pieces. Mix the potatoes, onion, tomatoes and capsicum in a bowl. Add the lemon juice salt, sugar and chat masala and mix well. Sprinkle coriander leaves on top. Serve chilled. Yummy!

- T.M.Shilpa,
Std.VIII, DTEA Senior Secondary School,
New Delhi

SUSHREE MANISHA,
Std.V,
Loyola School,
Bengalooru

K.R.VARSHA,
Std.IX,
HAL Public School,
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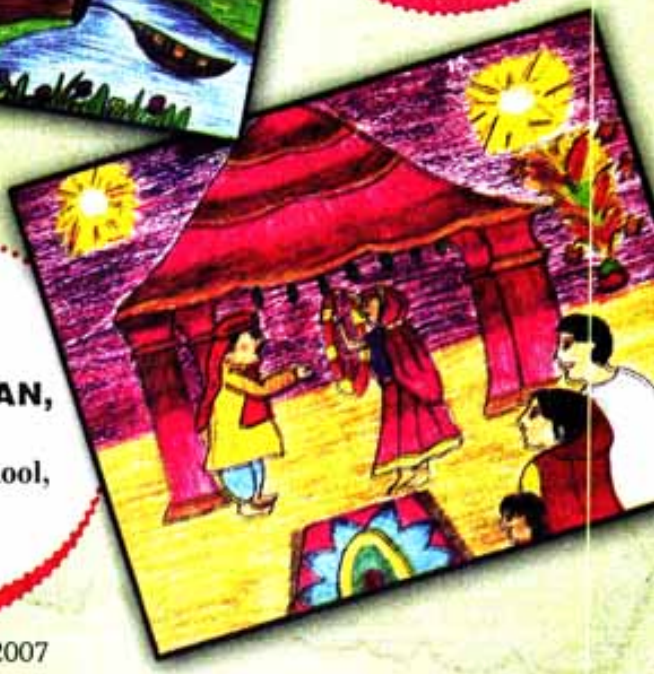

ANJANA SUBRAMANIAN,
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Delhi Public School,
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Saradha Matriculation School,
Gingee

Colour Burst

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47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
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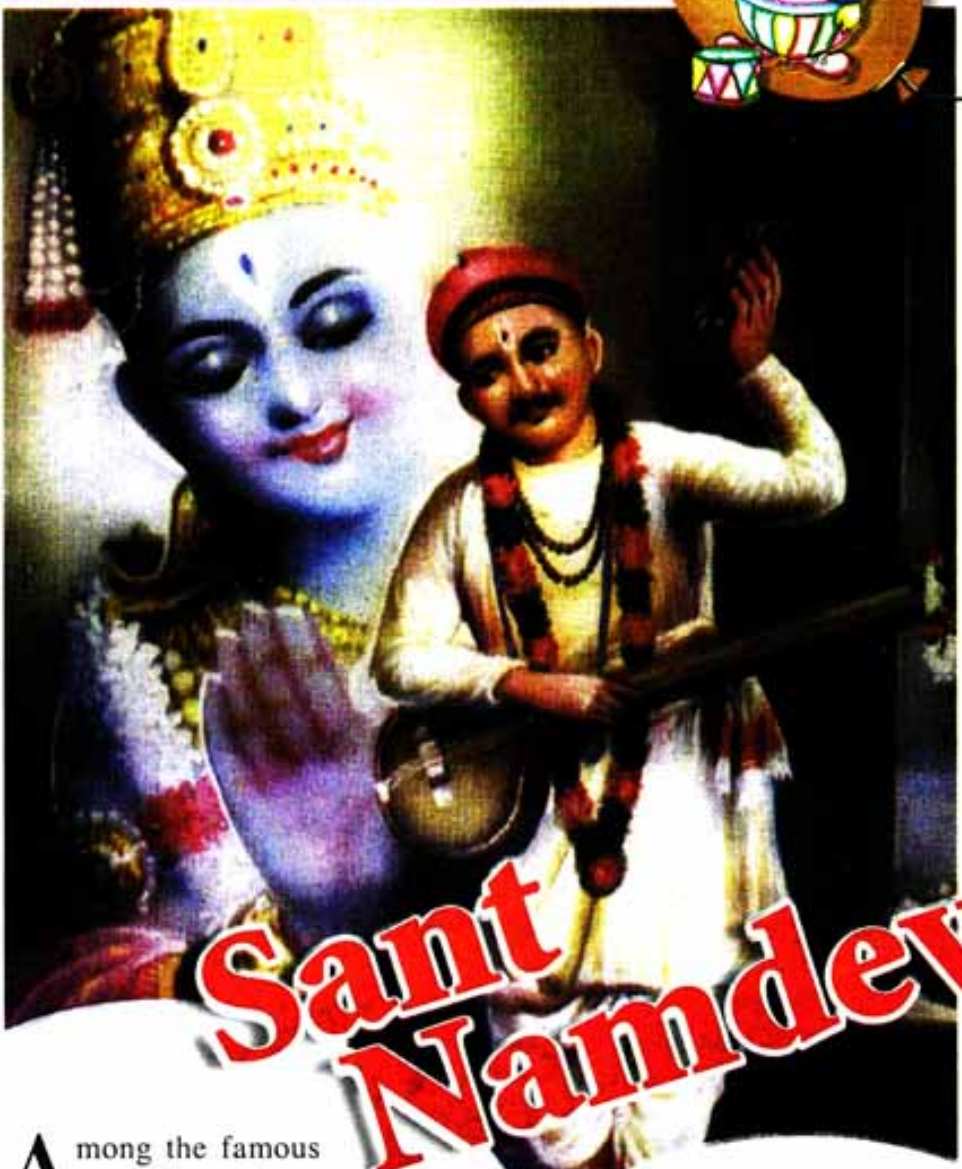
E-mail : subscription@kalkiweekly.com



Sant Namdev

Among the famous poet saints of yore, Sant Namdev is renowned for his exemplary devotion to God. Namdev was born in 1270 AD to a poor couple, Damasheti, a tailor of Narsinghpur and Gonnaibhai. He was an ardent devotee of Lord Panduranga Vittala of holy Pandarpur in Maharashtra. He spent all his childhood at the Vittala temple of Pandarpur, neglecting his

studies. He led a pious life, singing and dancing in praise of the Lord.

Even his marriage with Rajayibai could not turn him worldly - minded. Vittala was the only reality to him. His devotion was such, the Lord Himself would assume human form at the sanctum sanctorum, to relish the prasadam he used to offer regularly.

However, the Lord was unhappy at the narrow vision of Namdev who could see him nowhere other than in the temple of Pandarpur. On the Lord's instruction, Jnaneshwar, a scholar persuaded Namdev to accept 'Sant Vishoba Kechara' as his Guru. Through Vishoba Kechara's instruction, Namdev realised the omnipresence of God.

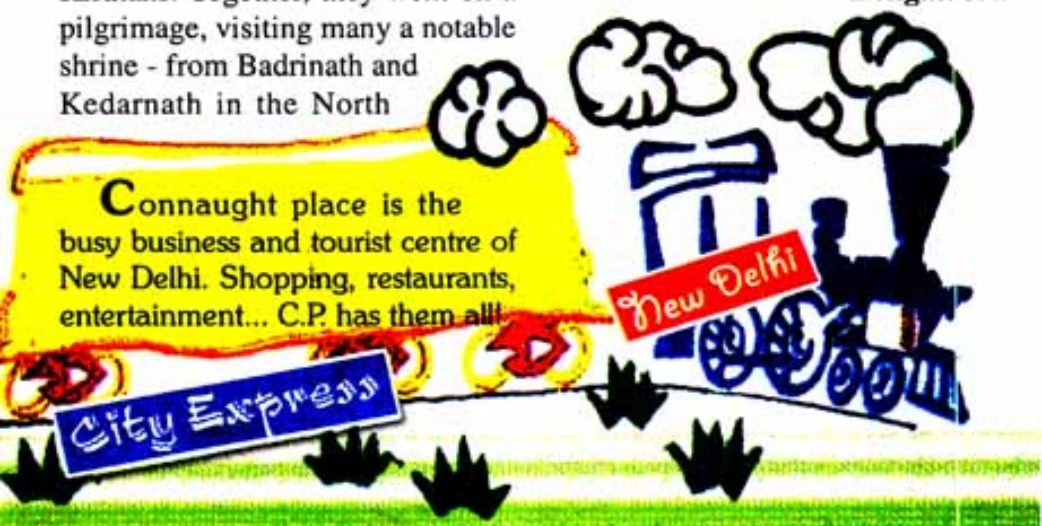
In the holy town of Pandarpur, Jnaneshwar and Namdev organised regular festivals of Harikatha and Kirthans. Together, they went on a pilgrimage, visiting many a notable shrine - from Badrinath and Kedarnath in the North upto Rameshwaram and Kanyakumari, down south. Through Kirtans, they, preached and taught the masses.

The 'Abhangas' that Namdev composed, out of sheer love for the Lord, spread his voice far and wide. An abhanga is a religious verse of 4 lines, in Marathi language. Sixty of the lovely abhangas find an honoured place in the holy book of the Sikhs, the Grant Saheb. As many as 2500 Abhangas are in vogue.

Namdev who shines as a glowing link between mortals and the Divine, left the world in 1350 AD at the ripe age of 80.

(This saint 'Namdev' was mentioned in the 'divine child : Bhakta Janabai' of Feb. issue - He gave shelter to Janabai)

Retold - **M.Sneha, Std.XI, Bengalooru**



Vineet Nayak celebrates his eighth birthday on July 16th in Kuwait.

"Wishing you a very happy birthday and a prosperous future"

With love,
Puneeth Pal,
Prashanth Pal and family, Mysore

Aravind Sudarshan celebrates his tenth birthday on July 20th.

Wish you a happy and prosperous future.

You brothers
Bharath,
Ajit
and Naresh

Birthday Greetings to **Monica** on 13th July.

May your birthday be filled with joy and fun. May the year ahead see you grow more and more beautiful.

- R.Sunitha,
Malleswaram,
Bengalooru.

Just For You-6

People, who are very aged or sick, they just want to communicate with you and in the process of communication, what is it that they can share... When people don't have enthusiasm in them, they will only share their grievances. – That doesn't mean that they're so miserable. There is a corner in them that remains untouched by any misery! I tell you this is a fact. Whether it is extreme joy or happiness or terrible misery, there is a tiny part in every human being that remains untouched by feeling.

We need to realize that each of us has such a part inside us. It is the same with people who appear to be very miserable. In reality, they are not that miserable, but they talk, talk, talk, talk, talk! The mind is like that – especially when you know that someone cares for you, you don't always go to them with a smile and with joy! You go to them with all your problems and complaints! This is the normal course of things!

Suppose you are at a big party. At that party, you will go find your very close friend and complain! "The party is good, but that should have been better, but this should have been better. They should have put that thing there. This light is not good..."

KINDLE THE

These blah, blah, blah complaints we do, only to our close friend. We will find them and then we talk. We won't talk to the host! Out of manners, we won't go and tell someone new!

The same happens with elderly people! When they find someone very close to them (their confidantes - in whom they can confide things – especially grandchildren, sons, daughters) then they will complain : "You know, your aunt is like that. You

* Beautiful smile...

know, she did this way... You know, she never even sent a Christmas greeting to me. I sent her three cards and she never replied to even one card...!" These are the things that go on in their minds!

Don't imagine that they're stuck with those things! They say all that and then they forget the whole thing! This is what happens as age advances.

Tomorrow we had better watch out... lest we start complaining like them...!

FIRE

* tense, fiery...

If we find that the grannies in our home are complaining, and don't like it – we had better not complain too! And if we see them – so generous, so calm, so serene, so loving, we better start being that way right now. So we learn both ways from elderly people- what we should be doing and what we should not be doing!

If we are all the time focussed only on pleasure and 'what will I get?', 'how do I exploit?', 'how can I enjoy?', more, more, more... then we will see, the ability to enjoy is limited. Our senses will get so tired and before that, they'll make our brain tired, our mind tired.

We have to sort ourselves out of this mess. Wake up! Wake up and see 'Who am I?', 'What am I?', 'What is this world?', 'What do I want?', 'What can I do in this world?', 'What did I do this last year to the world? What can I do this year to the world?' This zeal and enthusiasm, we have to create within ourselves!

Elderly people remind us of this –

If we look at Mahatma Gandhi's pictures, when he was young, he looked like a tense, fiery individual, ready to pick a fight. But as he became older, his smile became bigger because he started serving, he started meditating. His beauty increased everyday as he became older and older – because his quest for Truth was so sincere.

So that fire in us – 'I want to know the Truth'; 'My life is committed to Truth – knowing Truth'; 'My life is committed to serving everybody in the world – to make a better world around me'; 'My life is committed to making myself useful to everybody'. This one thought can bring so much fire in us.

(Concluded)

✉ I learnt about Gokulam from one of my best friends. Unable to control myself, I subscribed to it. I love Harry Potter news the best. It is great to know that there are so many fans of Rowling.

- Shobha Rani Mahapatra, Std.VIII, B.J.E.M., Bhubaneswar

Inspired, Encouraged,

✉ I have been a reader of Gokulam since last year. I love it.

- Purnima Tiwari, Std.VIII, Yugantar Public School, Rajandgaon

✉ I am a lucky person to read Gokulam! I wish it were a weekly magazine!

- Danapradha, Mannargudi

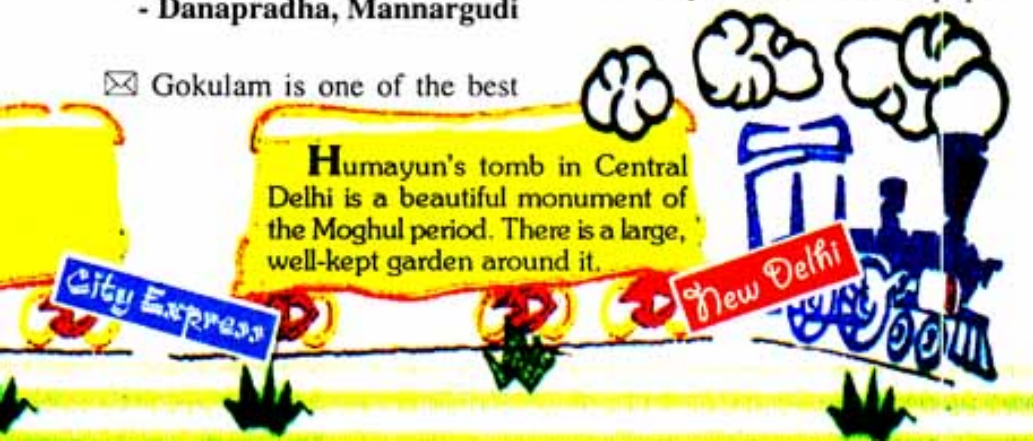
✉ Gokulam is one of the best magazines I have ever read. It has brightened my dull life. One of my friend's told me about 'Pottering Around'. As I am a Harry Potter fan, I started reading it. It's great to read Gokulam.

- Gayatri Varma, Std.X, Amrita Vidyalayam, Ernakulam

✉ I am a regular reader of Gokulam and want to send my entry to Art Gallery section. What size paper should I use? Can I fold it...?

- M.Jayashree, Std.VII, K.V., Island Grounds, Chennai

Dear Jayashree,
You may use thick A4 size paper



Billu is equally nice.

- K.R.B. Dhaarani, Chennai

✉ Gokulam is my favourite magazine. I like it's stories, jokes and Potter news. It also helps me improve my general knowledge. I am very thankful to Gokulam.

- Alisa Nayak, Std.VIII, G.H. School, Bhubaneswar

Thankful..!

and try not to fold it.

- Editor

✉ The first thing I do at the beginning of the month is, go to any shop and treat myself to a copy of Gokulam.

- S.Krishnakumar, Chennai

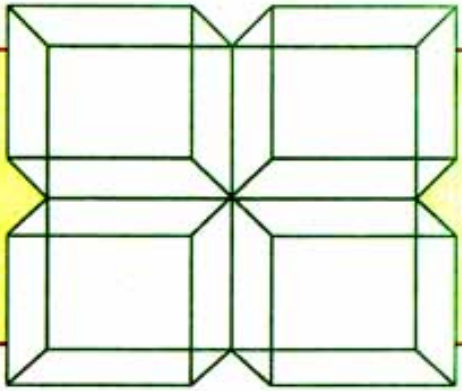
✉ When my class teacher learnt that my article had been published in Gokulam, she insisted that I photocopy it and put it up on the notice board of my school. It made me feel really encouraged. I would like to know whether you could restart Tinku and Book Nook eventhough

✉ I love Gokulam a lot. I have been reading it from October 2006. I like Grandmaworm, Hello Doctor, Pot Pourri and Creative Corner.

- Amritha Anil, Age 10, Delhi

✉ In March 2004, my article was published for the first time in Gokulam. This made me popular in my school. Thanks a lot Gokulam! From then I've become a zealous reader of Gokulam! Many of my school mates were inspired by me and they too have subscribed to Gokulam.

- S.Vaishnavi, St. John's MHS, Chennai



I. How many quadrilaterals can you count in the diagram? Count with care!

– MR.Nandhini, Std IX, Bharathi Vidya Bhavan, Erode

COUNT with CARE!

II. Quizzy Mahabharatha!

1. What is Karna's foster father's name?
2. What is the other name of Kunthi?
3. Who is Pandu's mother?
4. Who blessed Madri with Nakula and Sahadeva?
5. Who is Dronacharya's wife?
6. What do you call a warrior who has the capacity to fight with 60,000 people at the same time?
7. Who is the son of Arjuna and Draupadi?
8. Who blessed Arjuna with the Gandeeva?
9. What did Bhishma chant from his death-bed?
10. Who is Duryodhana's wife?

- R.Harshitha, Std.X, MES Kishore Kendra,Bengalooru

III. Match the Books and Authors

Life and Time	Dominique Lapiere
Conquest of Self	Leo Tolstoy
Gitanjali	Katherine Mayo
Malgudi Days	R.K.Narayan
The Social Contract	Rousseau
City of Joy	V.V.Giri
Das Capital	Daniel Defoe
Robinson Crusoe	Karl Marx
Mother India	Rabindarnath Tagore
War and Peace	Mahatma Gandhi

- L.Aravindh Kumar,
Std.VIII,
Saradha M.S., Gingee

IV. Riddles

1. What room has no floor, roof, doors or windows?
2. What is a four letter word entirely surrounded by water?
3. Which ship is not a ship?
4. What has teeth but can't eat?

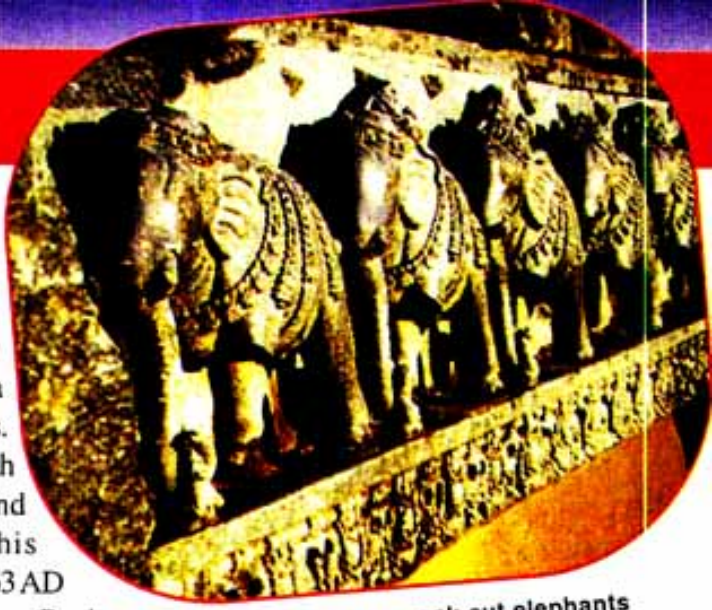
- V.Revathy,
Std.VI, Holy Angels
Convent, Chennai

ANSWERS :

I. 33 Quardrilaterals
II. 1.Adhiratha 2.Pruha 3.Ambalika 4.Ashwini devathas 5.Krupa 6.Athiratha 7.Shrutha-karma 8.Agni 9.Vishnu Sahasranama 10.Bhanumathi

III. Life and Time — Dominique Lapiere; Conquest of Self — Mahatma Gandhi; Gitanjali — Rabindanath Tagore; Malgudi Days — R.K.Narayan; The Social Contract — Rousseau; City of Joy — Dominique Lapiere; Das Capital — Karl Marx; Robinson Crusoe — Daniel Defoe; Mother India — Katherine Mayo; War and peace — Leo Tolstoy; V.V.Giri

IV. 1.Mushroom 2.Fish 3.Worship 4.A comb



• rock cut elephants

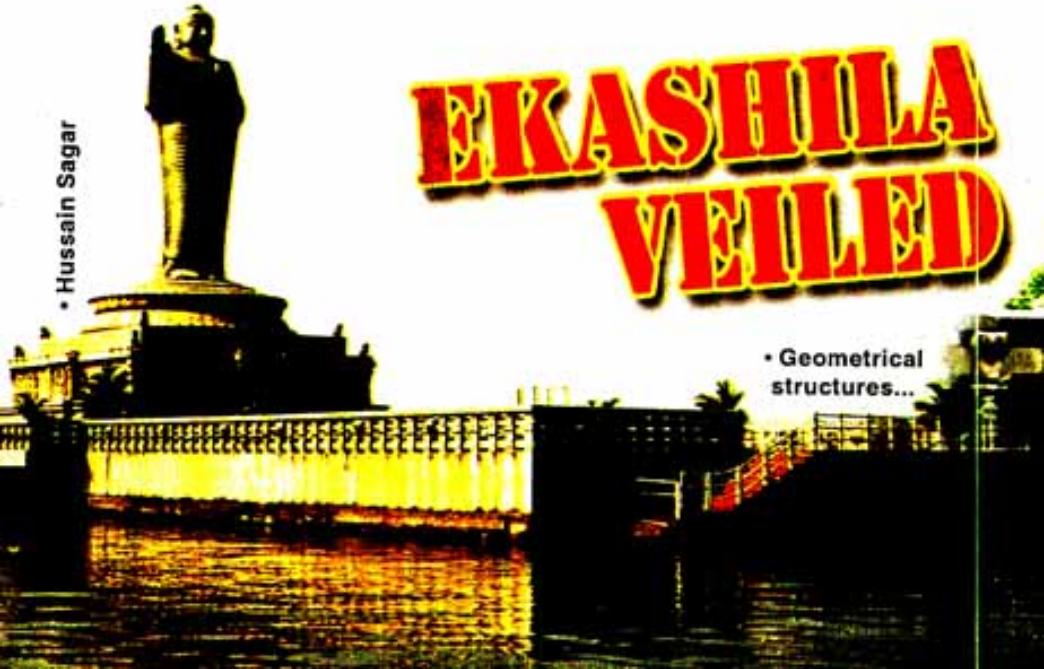
During my holidays, I visited Warangal and Hyderabad. Warangal, a very pleasant place has a number of tourist spots. The morning began with a visit to the thousand pillared temple. This temple was built in 1163 AD by the Kakatiya king Rudra Devaraya. It is a historic monument and is maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India. It is an example of the Chalukyan style of temple architecture.

The star shaped, triple-shrine dedicated to Lord Shiva, Vishnu and Surya has richly carved pillars and rock-cut elephants.

The same evening, we went to a musical garden. The light went off, and the show began. Many songs were played and we had fun watching the colourful dancing fountains.

The next morning we went to an ancient palace. The emperors of the Kakatiya dynasty lived here during the 13th century. The palace is now

EKASHILA VEILED



• Hussain Sagar

• Geometrical structures...

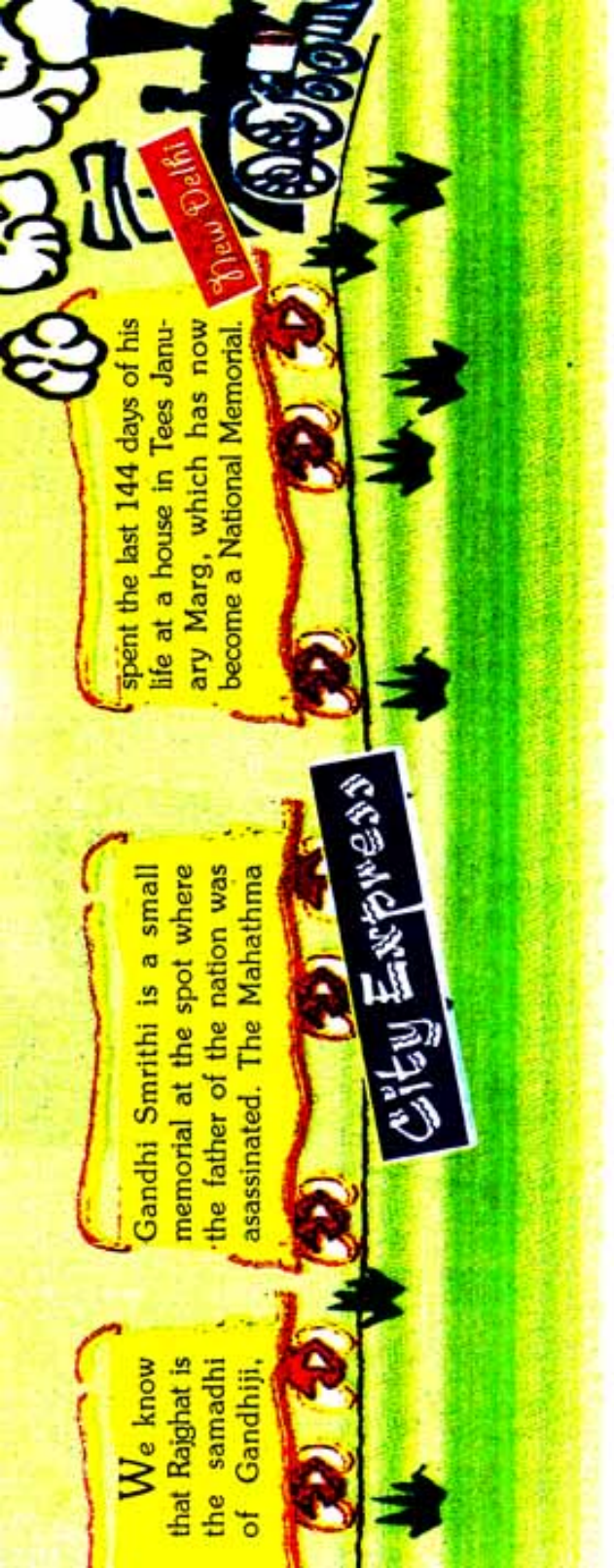
in ruins but several carved stones and beautiful geometrical structures still remain. Around the palace there are four identical gateway arches, one on each side. These arches known as 'Ekashila', symbolise the Kakatiya empire and Warangal.

We left Warangal and reached Hyderabad in three hours. The next day, I visited the N.M.Birla Science Museum. The clay models of the evolution of man, the fossil of a tortoise, the submerged city of Dwaraka, space models and the dinosaurium were very interesting. In the dinosauriam I saw the skeleton of a real dinosaur! Many scientific truths were practically demonstrated for visitors. It took a whole day to go around.

Subsequently we visited the Planetarium. The one hour show was a lifetime experience. The seating in the hall is in circular fashion and the semicircle screen gives the effect of looking into the sky. The various slides showing asteroids and meteors were wonderful. There were instances where you could feel as if you landed on the moon or celestial objects were falling by your side. Truly, it was

• Ekashila

and REBECCA!



amazing!

The next day we visited the Salar Jung Museum, the largest one man collection in the world. There are many special things in the museum like the Veiled Rebecca - the amazing marble statue of a woman whose face is covered by a transparent marble veil! The clock which attracts a large number of visitors is of British origin. A tiny toy figure comes out of an enclosure in this wall clock and strikes a bell at each hour and then goes back! I sat right in front of the clock and enjoyed myself.

Later we went to Tank Bund, a road connecting the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad. It is actually the bank of the Hussain Sagar lake in the middle of which one can see a gigantic statue of Lord Buddha.

I also visited the Charminar whose walls and roof have been carved beautifully. The four minars rise to a height of 180 feet. This unique Minar was built by Quali Qutub Shah in 1952.

It was an exciting, enjoyable, unforgettable trip!

- R.Pavithra, Std VI,
Vidhya Niketan School,
Coimbatore

Jokes

"Mom is always friendly with veggies...!"

"That's good.... But I have a doubt in that matter...!"

"What's your doubt..?"

"Is she friendly with the worms, inside the veggies...?"

- G.Sailakshmi, Std.VIII,
Sri Sarada Matriculation School,
Ariyakulam

Mother : How was the maths test today?

Ramu : Not bad. I will get five marks out of 100.

Mother : But, why?

Ramu : Our maths teacher told us that she would add five marks for neatness.

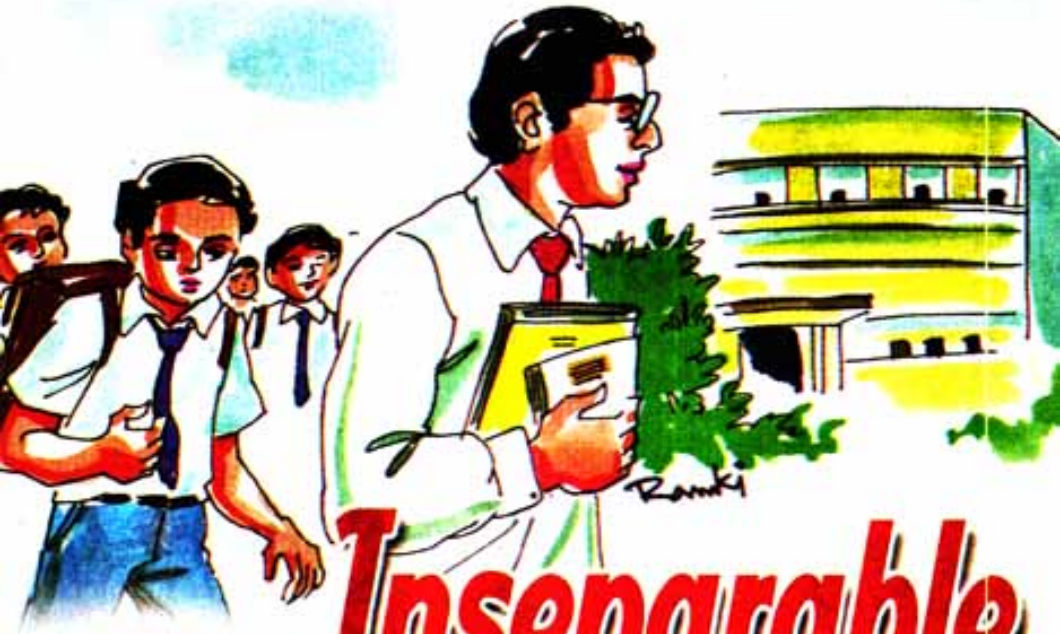
- S.Kothai Sudharshana,
Std.IX, SBOA School & Jr. College,
Chennai

WRIGGLY FRIENDS!

Ram : Do you think computers will replace news papers and magazines?

Shyam : I don't think so. You can't swat a fly with the computer.

- Mohd Abdul Sami,
Std.V, Hind. Public High School,
Chattisgarh



Inseparable

The deafening chaos of the morning at VII class abruptly transformed into an anxious silence. A new boy followed our class teacher. He was introduced as Sutheerth, a recent immigrant to our town because of his father's official transfer. As the teacher asked him to take a seat, I moved and made place for him in the second last bench where I sat. He ignored me and sat beside Ram, a member of the small 'recess football team' I maintained. This is where I picked my first impression about him - 'rude'.

The classes went on with each teacher enquiring about the new boy. Soon, it was lunch. We gulped our food and gathered to go and play but Ram said, "I am not playing today. I am talking to Sutheerth." My second impression about him- 'spoilsport'. I did'nt seem to like him.

The next morning, I entered the class to find only Sutheerth, copying notes from Ram's book. Five minutes later, he came to me and said, "Hi! errrr.....yesterday I did not sit beside you because I can't see distant things clearly. I am waiting for my spectacles . Once I get them I'll join you here."

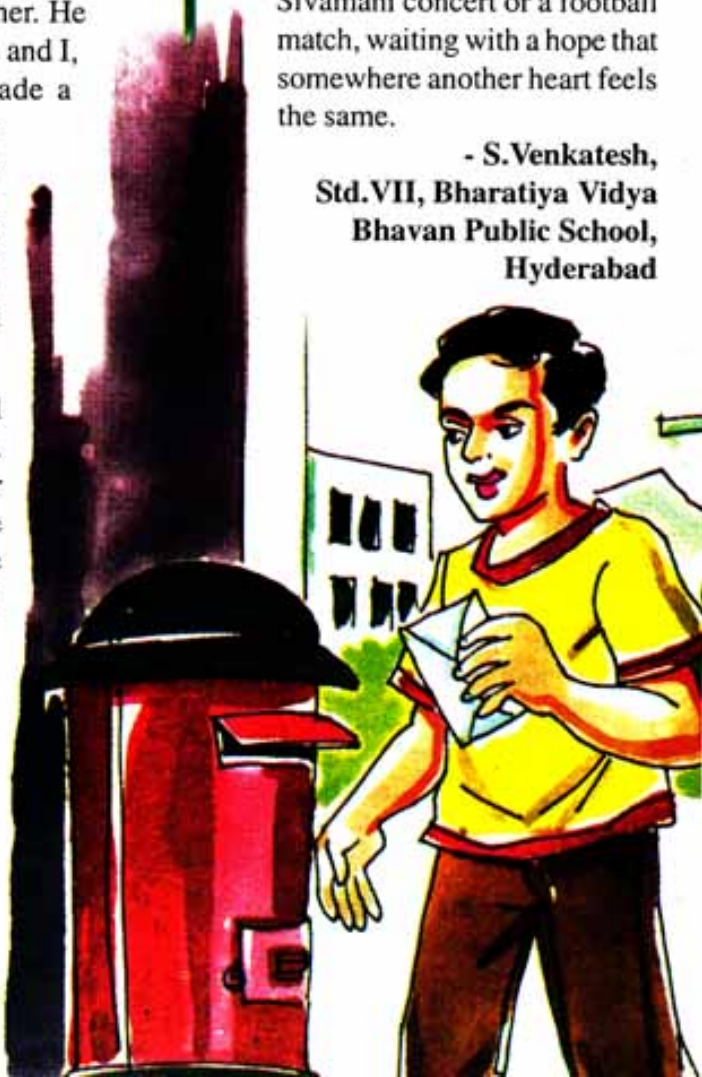
There was a moment's silence.

Then he continued, "Ram told me you are a great football player. I like the game too. Can I join your team?". I was shaken. I said, "That's O.K. and yes, you can play with us." Our mouths drew into gentle smiles. We soon discovered that most of our interests matched. Each of us was as crazy about Harry Potter as the other. He was good at the drums and I, on the guitar. We made a good band. After regular practices in my cellar, we got a great response for our performances in school. We were called "The Inseperable".

Four years passed by, in the wink of eye. His father was due for his next transfer. We had a tough time parting. I accompanied him to the station and we waved till the train was out of sight in a typical "Kuch Kuch Hota Hai" style.

We kept our friendship alive for two years through letters and telephone conversations. Unfortunately, both of us shifted places at the same time and so, lost contact. But as it is said, 'True friendship not only withstands adversity but also grows stronger for it'. I yearn to meet this missing part of my life at a Sivamani concert or a football match, waiting with a hope that somewhere another heart feels the same.

- S.Venkatesh,
Std.VII, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Public School, Hyderabad



To School,

To School!

Here's a really charming picture for you to colour up! **Use either wax crayons or colour pencils** and make the scene colourful. Use your imagination!

Send your entry with the coupon filled up to :

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Name : .....

Age : .....Class .....

School : .....

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.....

Pin .....

● **A.Arun Kumar, Chennai**

? How does swimming help our health and fitness?

! Swimming is an ideal exercise for everyone. During swimming each and every muscle and joint of the body is exercised. While strokes tone up the body muscles, floating helps to relax. it builds the body, soothes the mind, improves the blood circulation and regulates breathing. It is an effective weight-control exercise, i.e., one hour of swimming burns about as many calories as running six miles in one hour. It is equivalent to meditation because it helps calm the nerves.

● **Kamini, Bengalooru**

? What is rabies? How can we prevent it?

! Rabies is a killer disease contracted from the bite of 'mad' dogs. It is caused by the rabies virus which affects the brain and spinal cord. One of the most significant symptoms of this disease in human beings is hydrophobia, i.e., fear of water. The person will have no control over his or her reactions and would attempt to either bite or scratch anyone nearby. Prophylactic vaccines are available for both dogs and human beings. Dogs should be immunised against rabies periodically. If bitten by suspected rabid dogs, human beings have to be given vaccination immediately to prevent rabies.

● **Urmila Mishra, Bhubaneswar**

? I have yellow stain on my teeth. How can I get rid of it?

! The three most common rem-

Can Swimming Keep

Dr.G.Ganesan

edies for tooth discolouration are bleaching, veneers and tooth caps. Bleaching is a method of lightening the natural tooth colour without removing any of the tooth surfaces. A veneer is a layer of tooth colouring material that is applied to a tooth. It can last for seven years. When a single tooth is stained, it can be corrected by fixing a tooth cap which covers the crown portion of the tooth only. Laser treatment is also available to treat yellow stains.

● **S.Sridharan, Puducherry**

? How can we prevent childhood obesity?

! Avoid white rice, sweet cereals and sugary foods. Include whole-grain bread and cereals. Avoid fatty foods like eggs, meat, sweets and cakes. A variety of fruits and green leafy vegetables should be included in the diet. Protein rich foods like milk, oats, pulses, fish etc should be taken. Eating junk foods should be avoided and eating snacks while watching TV should be discouraged. Physical activities should be increased. Walking, exercise and games can help to burn excess calories in thd body.

● **K.R.B. Dharani,**

? I am 14 years old. I have short hair. My hair falls continuously, as I comb. What should I do to prevent hair loss?

! The most common cause for hair fall at your age is nutritional deficiency. So the essential nutrients for the growth of hair like proteins, iron, zinc, biotin can be supplemented in your food. Milk, curd, egg, meat, beans, cauliflower, dates, beetroot, cashewnut and fish are rich in the above mentioned nutrients. Regular intake of these items may result in growth of hair. ●

me Fit?

ELEPHANTINE PROBLEMS!

The Asian elephant is an intelligent animal. It eats a purely vegetarian diet. The elephants always move as a herd.

The elderly female or matriarch is responsible for the safety of the herd and leads it to fresh pastures and water. Communication is by touch, sight, scent, and sound. A new born baby is hairy with a short trunk and staggers to its feet within half an hour of birth. Young elephants grow fast and are very curious. The infants nurse for eighteen months. They start to eat grass once they are a few months old. They also eat their mother's dung! The dung contains nutrients, as well as bacteria that aid cellulose digestion! The elephant's favourite food is grass which it pulls up with its trunk. They are unable to easily digest cellulose, so over half the food they consume is passed straight through their body. Elephants need huge quantities of water too. This is one more reason why they face extinction. Water is so scarce today! The elephant's life span is 70 years.

It is well known that elephants have excellent memories and are capable of solving practical

problems. One elephant in the wild was observed lifting her calf over an electric fence with her trunk. Individual elephants have been seen crying with frustration, while coming to the aid of a sick or injured member of their herd. They even rescue humans caught up in natural disaster.

The Asian elephants are in danger of extinction today. Earlier they were found in every continent. But now only a few areas of south and southeast Asia can boast of elephants in the wild.

There are numerous conservation projects, which try to prevent illegal poaching of elephants for ivory and meat. In Thailand, where logging has been banned, numerous mahouts have taken elephants to beg on the streets.

- Vakul Goyle,
Std.VII,
D.A.V. Public School,
Bhubaneswar

PIPPIRI AT INDRAPURI

It was tiny Pippiri.
I am also a subject of yours. I will help you win over Indrapuri.
What? You? Help me?
How can a teeny weeny creature like you help us?
Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha!
Pippiri went straight to Indrapuri.
Don't mock me. I am setting out right away.
Oh dear!
I am so tiny. Nobody will notice me.
Ha! Ha! Pippiri needs only a window to enter.
It was a room where the king of Indrapuri used to hold secret meetings.
From here I can learn of their plans.

Soon he returned to Chitrapuri.
Majesty, I have studied all their secrets.
Hey, he has come back.
Majesty, their horses are down with some epidemic. They have only foot soldiers to fight.
EH ?
They have planned to enter our kingdom through the tunnel in the east.
Their soldiers will be tired after the long journey.
If we reach the tunnel before they do, we can defeat them easily.
Senapat, get the army ready.
In the battle that followed, Mitrappa's army easily defeated Indrapuri.
Victory is ours.
Later-
Pippiri, you have proved that it is will power and not strength that is great.

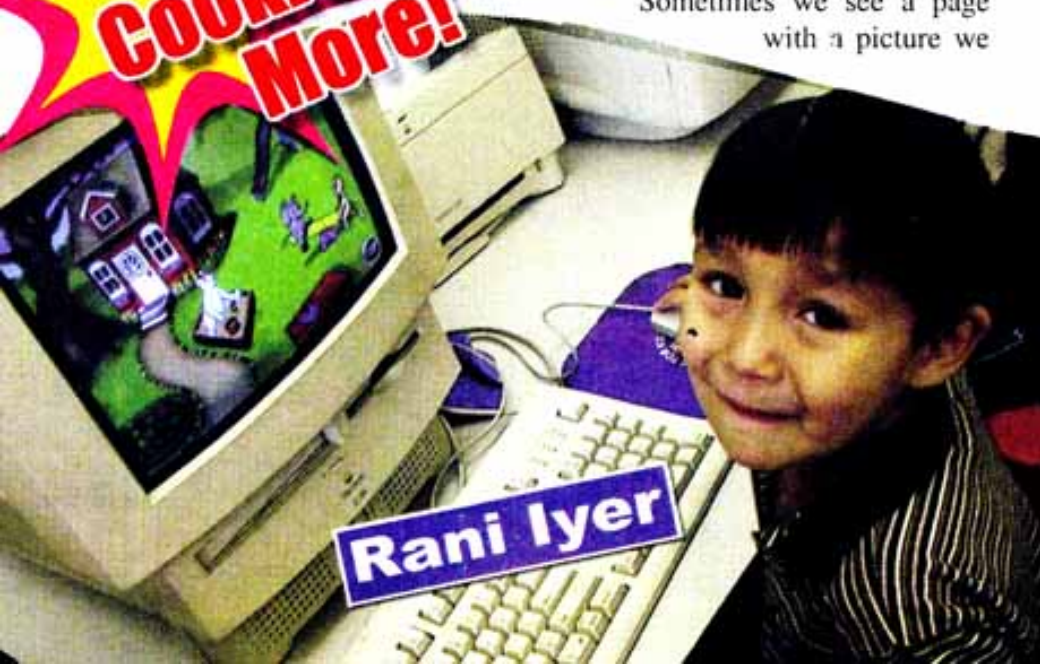
Copyright, Cookies and More!

Think of a mango tree weighing down with mangoes. How do people react when they see it? Almost everyone would like to throw stones at the fruits and fell them. The temptation is almost impossible to resist!

Internet offers many such temptations. Since we can view pages, play games on line, or listen to music on line, we try to copy what we like from the internet. Stop! Many pages are covered or protected by ***copyright***. When we copy any material picture, music, or photos, without permission, we are doing something illegal. We become a thief, stealing what we can't own [**Window 1 See page .....**].

Copyright allows us to view web pages and we can quote or provide link to information from that page. If we copy, change, display, perform or distribute another's work, we are violating someone's copyright. It is usually accepted that any work published on or before December 31, 1922 is available to the public and can be used. Copyright laws are different in Europe, Asia, and America. Be careful about breaking copyright laws.

Sometimes we see a page with a picture we



Rani Iyer

Jantar Mantar - a must see relic - is an observatory constructed by Raja Jai Sing II (1825). It is a testimony to ancient Indian astronomical studies.

The second largest city in nation next to Mumbai, New Delh also the second most polluted cit the whole world!

City Express

want, but the page has no copyright information or contact information of the person. In this case, we can provide the picture and list where we got the picture from. It is best to present the picture without any changes or distortion. If we post our personal pictures on our web pages and want to protect them, we can do so by adding © and our name.

Not everything on the internet is protected. Many people share their work freely and there are other sites on the internet from where we can get free software or pictures [**Window 2**]. There are two terms— Freeware and Shareware— that frequently come up when we download software on the internet. Freeware is a totally free product. We can download it with no rules and use it as we please. Shareware allows us to download only a demonstration version (called 'demo') and then asks us to pay to use the full version. Most sharewares are installed on our computer for a limited number of days so that we can 'try' out something new before we buy it.

In many ways, internet isn't any different from some services we use in our everyday life. For instance, if we go to the public library to borrow a book we need a library card as our identification. Similarly, some sites require us to use 'cookies' to allow us to return to the site again A cookie is a string of text that gets entered into the memory of our browser [**Window 3**]. All this convenience has a price. Internet is a good place for harvesting all the personal information stored in cookies and misusing them. That is a topic we will go into next time.

Window 1:

When we visit the homepage of Gokulam (http://www.kalkiweekly.com/subscribe/gokulamenglish.asp), at the end of the page we will see the following information:

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Window 2:

Need some good sites to download the programs and pictures? Check these out:

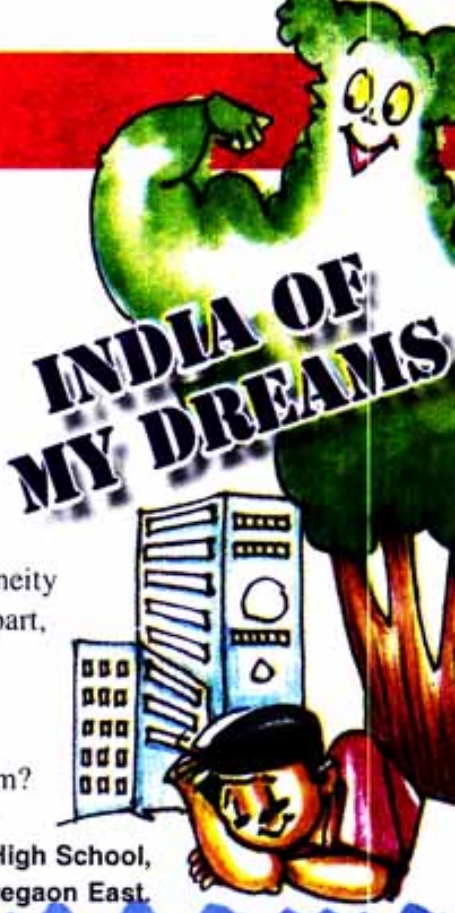
- *Download Free Software: http://www.download.com/*
- *Royalty Free Pictures: http://www.bigfoto.com/*
- *Free Photos: http://www.freedigitalphotos.net/*
- *Royalty Free Music: http://www.royaltyfreemusic.com/free-music-resources.html*
- *Download games or play games on line: http://www.freearcade.com/*

Window 3:

Cookies have many uses in the computer world:

- *Allows us to personalize information for sign in*
- *Helps us to shop for goods and gifts on-line*
- *Track web surfing habits*
- *Collect information on demographics*

Poet's Corner



INDIA OF MY DREAMS

Once, while sleeping by a stream,
I had a very sweet dream,
In that marvelous dream,
India had become very very clean!

Tall buildings filled the scenery;
Without any compromise on greenery.
People were full of patriotism,
And devoid of every bit of terrorism.

Everybody had lots of opportunity
And people helped each other with spontaneity
Just when the dream had reached its best part,
Lo behold, I woke up with a start.
Though the dream troubled me a lot
As I sat there, it kindled a thought
Can India become as beautiful as the stream?
Of course, similar to the one in my dream.

– Sangeeta Kumar, Std IX, Yashodham High School, Goregaon East.

Mystic Memoirs

The mystery lies
In the mist that flies
As it takes a peep into this
wonderful world
Full of silver, full of gold,
Full of people, all so bold.

Just as the deep of heavenly
blue
Studded with pearls and
oysters too
Shimmering bright in
the cold morning light
Giving us a chill to face
the days thrill

My mother is my treasure,
Who gives me pleasure,
Which I cannot measure
She goes crazy,
When I am lazy.
She takes me to the park,
And returns home before it is dark!
As she moulds my character
She is my director!

– Rahul Govindan,
Std.IV,
The Indian School,
Chennai

The soothing chill in the air,
Pleasant thoughts all so fair;
Wiping out traces of sadness
Filling the soul with magic
The mist and its mystical
mystery
Are always cherished in my
memory.

– Athina,
Age 14,
Vidyodaya Matriculation
Higher Secondary Academy,
Chennai

Heart Song

Once upon a time, there was a great man who had a little girl named Amy. She was a bright and cheerful little girl and the great man loved her very much. When she was very little, he would pick her up, hum a tune and dance with her round the room, and he would tell her, " I love you, little Amy!"

When little Amy grew up, the great man would hug her and tell her, "I love you, little Amy". Little Amy would pout and say, "I'm not little any more". Then the man would laugh and say, " but to me, you'll always be my little Amy".

Little Amy who-was-not-little-anymore left her home and went into the world. As she learned more about herself, she learned more about the man. She saw that he truly was great and strong, for now she recognized his strengths. One of his strengths was his ability to express his love to his family. It didn't matter where she went in the world, the man would call her and say, "I love you, little Amy".

The day came when Little Amy who-was-not-little-anymore received a phone call. The great man was ill. He had had a stroke, they explained to the girl. He couldn't talk anymore and they weren't sure that he could understand the words spoken to him. He could no longer smile, laugh, walk, hug, dance or tell Amy that he loved her.

And so she went back... to the side of the great man. When she walked into the room and saw him, he looked at her and tried to speak, but he could not. Little Amy did the only thing she could do. She climbed up on the bed next to the great man. Tears ran from both of their eyes and she drew her arms around the useless shoulder of her father. Her head on his chest, she remembered the wonderful times together and how she had always felt protected and cherished by the great man. She felt grief for the loss she was to endure - the words of love

that had comforted her.

And then she heard from within the man, the beat of his heart. The heart beat on, steadily, unconcerned about the damage to the rest of the body. And while she rested there, the magic happened. She heard what she needed to hear.

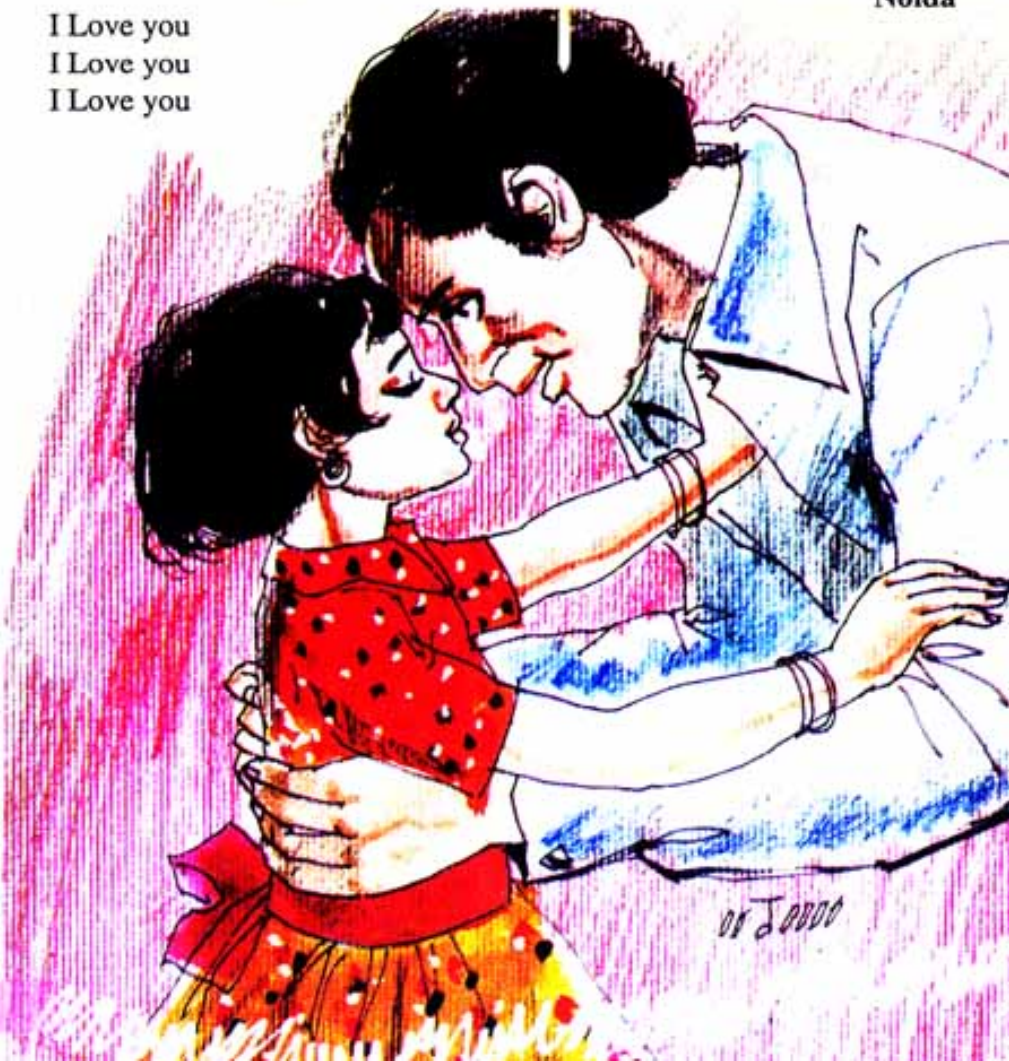
His heart beat out the words that his mouth could no longer say…

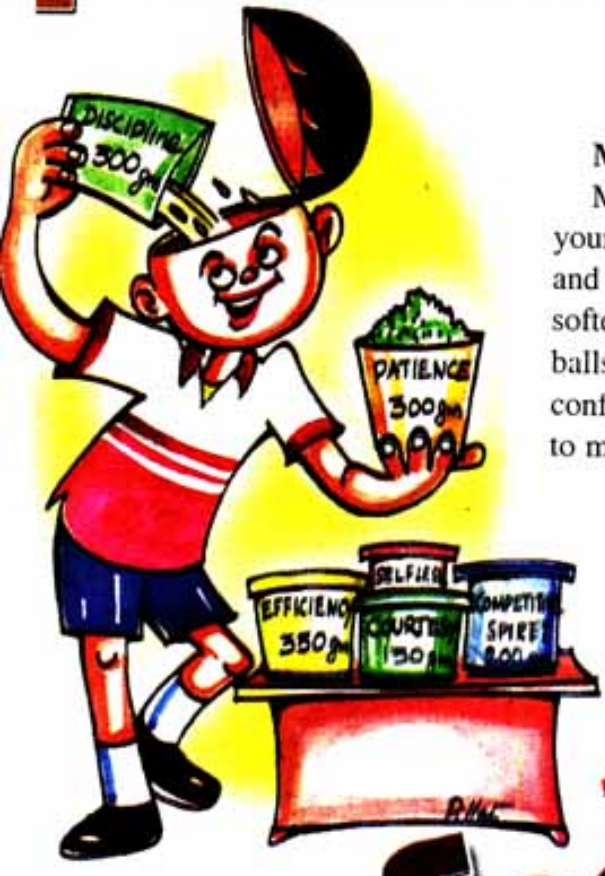
I Love you
I Love you
I Love you

Little Amy
Little Amy
Little Amy
And she was comforted....

(Source : Internet)

- Aparna Vaidyanathan,
Std.XI,
Ryan International School,
Noida





A Special Recipe!

Ingredients :

Discipline : 300 gms

Patience : 300 gms

Competitive Spirit : 200 gms

Efficiency : 350 gms

Selflessness : 150 gms

Courtesy : 150 gms

Confidence and humility : in equal measure to all other ingredients.

Method of preparation :

Mix discipline and patience in your heart. Add competitive spirit and efficiency. Blend in humility to soften the mixture. Make into small balls of love and keep aside. Heat confidence separately in your mind to make syrup of right action. Put the balls of love into the syrup and allow to cool. Decorate it with courtesy and selflessness. The good student is now ready to serve the community!

- G.Sahiti, Std.X, K.V., Picket, Secunderabad

Serial - Chapter 2

A Different Drum

Pavithra Srinivasan

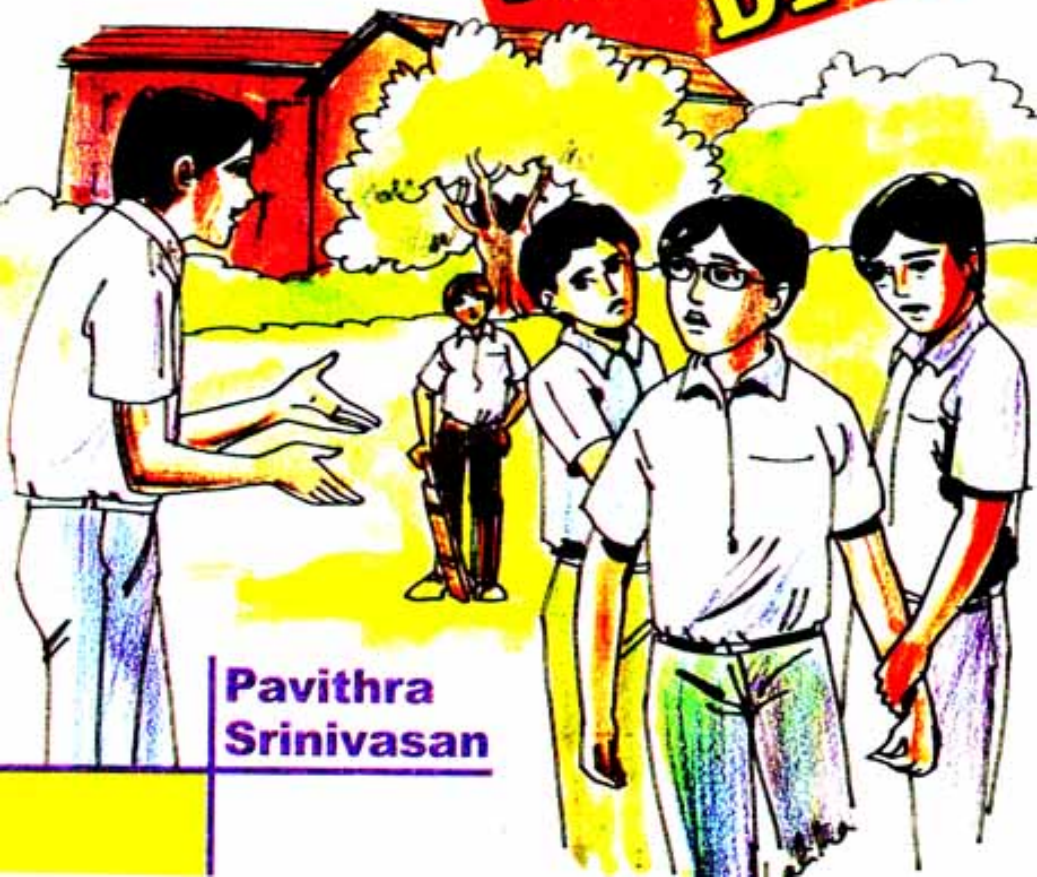
A SPARK OF LIGHT

"When are you going to make him stop?" came a voice near his left ear.

Shanmugam stopped rubbing his bloody, bruised knee and sighed. "Chembu, we've got a history test in fifteen minutes. I think we should revise," he mumbled.

"Yeah, yeah, right. But you've got to finish my test first! When are you going to stop that idiot Apurva bullying you?"

Shanmugam sat back on the tiny wooden bench. His bag was under his seat. The classroom was a noisy chaos; students ran about here and there; studying, chatting. Cricket scores and "test, ya" figured prominently. His classmates had stared at him, aghast, when he had first walked in, face and hands covered with



scratches and drops of blood. Wiping everything with a handkerchief had helped only a little. He had simply frowned at them, and they had moved away, willing to let it rest for the time being. After all, they had barely fifteen minutes to prepare. The class teacher would be here any moment. He took a deep breath of the phenyl smell that wafted around from the toilet round the corner. "I really don't –"

Chembu alias Shenbaganathan cut him off. "And we're going to the office to get some iodine for that." He tipped Shanmugam's bruised face. Apurva had been quite thorough in his bullying. "How could you let him do this to you?"

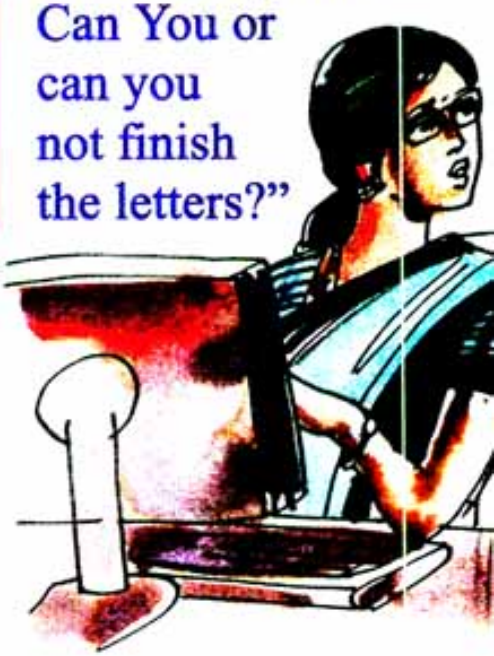
"Oh, shut up!" Shanmugam snapped, burying his face in his history book.

The class teacher walked in. He hunched himself in the last bench, hoping she wouldn't see him. Soon the class quieted, the only sounds now the rustling of sheets, closing books and little murmurs as everyone mouthed test questions and answers.

Shanmugam found that the answers were becoming muddled in his mind. He stared at the board, desperate. He knew when Akbar had ascended the throne. He knew where Humayun's tomb was ... but he simply couldn't bring himself to write the answers. His brain was a fuzzy, jumbled mess.

Beside him, Chembu threw him a sympathetic glance. He tilted his own answer sheet, so that it was in his line of sight. Shanmugam was tempted to

"Your incompetence is bothering me. Can You or can you not finish the letters?"



Jama Masjid area has a lot of roadside eateries. Mughalai and frontier food are specialities of New Delhi. Kababs, rotis, briyanis are native dishes. There are many other cuisines available too - from Tamil to Chinese!

City Express

copy. After all, no one was looking ...

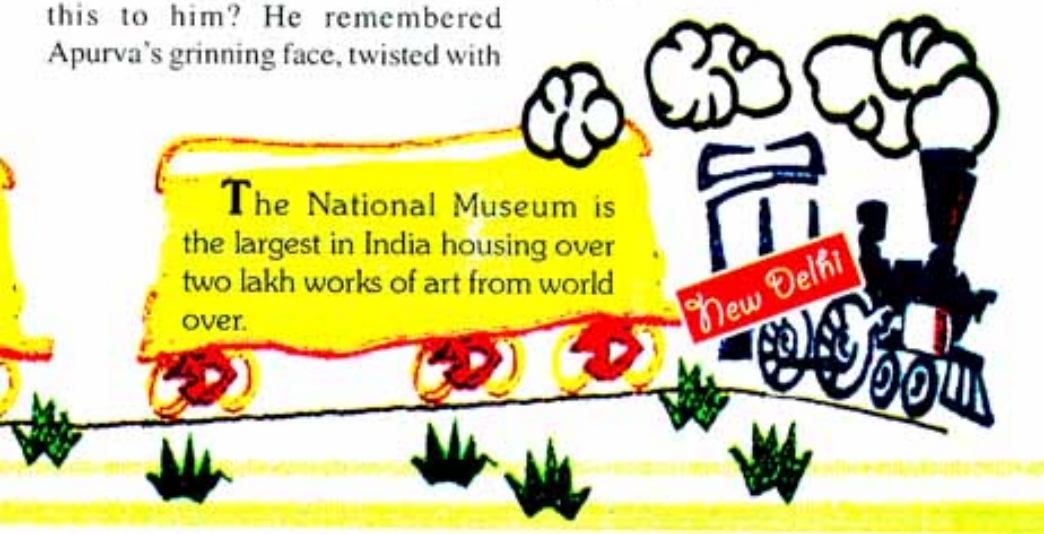
Then he sighed, and shook his head. If he didn't know the answers, that was his problem, not Chembu's. It was his fault ... and Apurva's. He felt a slow anger building up inside him. What right had that boy to do this to him? He remembered Apurva's grinning face, twisted with malicious glee as he pummeled him on the road. His fingers closed into a tight fist.

The rest of the test was a blur.

When recess rolled around, Shanmugam escaped to a corner of the playground, eager to catch a few minutes of practice at cricket. The school match was fast approaching, and he had been selected as a bowler. He might even take a couple of wickets! He certainly would. He pressed his lips in concentration and began a few warm-up exercises.

Someone pushed him from behind. "Think yourself a cricketer, huh?"

Apurva. Again. Shanmugam tensed. There was only a small gate that separated Apurva's school from his, since they were owned by the same management – and Apurva sometimes slipped through. Belatedly, Shanmugam remembered that Apurva was a part of the opposing team; sometimes his team practiced here, if their grounds were occupied.



Oh no. No – no – no – no ...

"Yes." He's going to kill me now," Shanmugam thought, bracing for the attack.

"You think you're going to win against us, little pathetic rats?" Apurva shoved him roughly.

"I – uh ..." Shanmugam stammered.

Just as Apurva prepared to punch his nose, a voice rang out. "So here you are! Ready to come to the library with me, Shanmuga?"

And quickly, Chembu had dragged Shanmugam away. Behind them, Apurva was laughing, crooking his finger.

"Coward!"

he sighed. "I'm barking like a mute street-dog over here and you're just dumb."

"How can a mute street-dog bark?"

"Like this." And Chembu emitted a shrill whining that had Shanmugam clapping his hands to his ears.

"Idiot!"

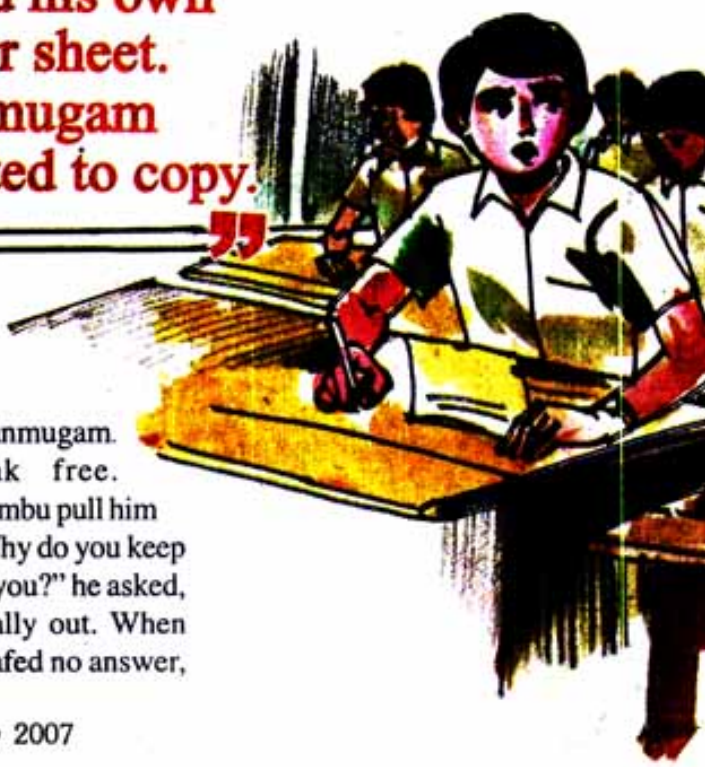
Chembu relaxed. "Race you to the Nuppanakkara Street!"

And they set off down the street, racing around two corners, mindful of the auto-rickshaws that shrieked and groaned, the buses rumbling along, and the pedestrians.

***

Shanmugam's mother Annapoorna sat at the computer,

"He tilted his own answer sheet. Shanmugam was tempted to copy."



"Ignore him, ignore him," Chembu kept chanting, even as Shanmugam strained to break free. Eventually, he let Chembu pull him towards the gates. "Why do you keep letting him do that to you?" he asked, when they were finally out. When Shanmugam vouchsafed no answer,

dejected.

There were piles of paper cluttering her desk. Press releases that had to be sent out before Thursday, to reach the local papers. Mailing addresses. Registrations had started trickling in. She had barely finished writing the letters –

"Anna!" Mrs Jayaseth always called her that, because it sounded western. Mrs Jayaseth liked anything western. "Have you finished the letters?"

Annapoorna jumped. She had been given instructions to mail hundred letters only an hour ago. "No, Madam. But I will finish soon."

Mrs Jayaseth's form filled the doorway. Short, round, and fair like her son Apurva. "Really, Anna, I don't understand why it's taking so long," she complained. "Your incompetence is bothering me. Can you or can you not finish the letters?"

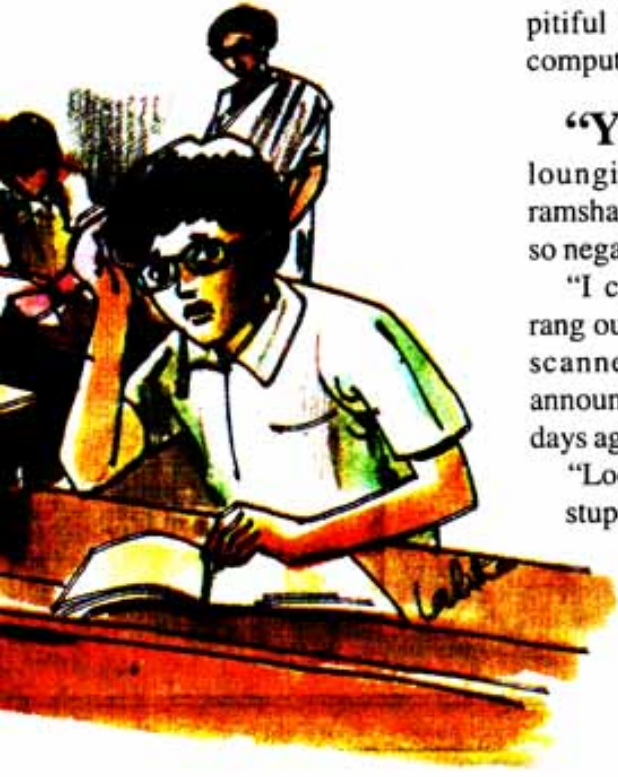
"I can, Madam." Annapoorna's voice was subdued.

"And I want you to visit five schools before five o'clock this evening. See that the letters are mailed within half an hour. I'm leaving for my party now." Mrs Jayaseth threw her a malevolent glare, and swished out of the door.

"Why do you rail at her so much?" came a low, subdued voice that Annapoorna recognized as Mr Jayaseth's.

"Don't you support her. I pay her so much ...!" His wife's voice was raised to a high pitch.

Annapoorna sighed deeply at her pitiful salary, and returned to the computer.



***

"Yes you can," argued Chembu, lounging against his father's ramshackle wooden desk. "Don't be so negative, okay?"

"I can't write stories. I can't," rang out Shanmugam's voice, as he scanned the notice. It was an announcement that had arrived two days ago, to the little lending library.

"Look at the announcement fully, stupid."

Shanmugam ran his eyes over the paper, and gasped out loud, in astonishment.

(To be continued...)

My friend is a below average student but she is good at craft. You can judge a student on the basis of marks to a very limited extent. Overall performance commitment and behaviour are very much more important.

- Manasvini Mukund, Std.VI, PS. Senior Secondary School, Chennai

Achievements do not necessarily mean academic feats. Pursuing writing as a career may bring out another Rowling in a child. A profession in painting can mould a Picasso. An amateur in music can flower into a Beethoven.So, it is not right to assess a student on the basis of marks alone.

- C.Parvathy, Std. VII, St. John's Mat. Hr. Sec. School, Chennai

A student may know the subject theoretically; perhaps he can even cram the whole thing up and score. But understanding the subject is very

QUESTION FOR THIS MONTH

Should beggars be punished for violating law?

Send us your views by 10.07.2007. Each published entry will receive a prize of Rs. 25/-. Remember to include details of your age, class, school and residential address. Those of you who are non - residents of India should send us a local (Indian) address too. You can send entries by post or by e.mail (gokulam@kalkiweekly.com)

Just a Few Drops...!

important. One who has understood the subject keenly can succeed in whatever he does.

- S.Prashanthi, Std.IX, Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan, Chennai

It would be wiser to assess a student on the basis of his intelligence and presence of mind.

- R.Archana, Std. X, T.V.S. M.H.S.S., Madurai

Leadership, creativity, oratory, performance in sports, games, etc. are not reflected in the marks that a student obtains in the exam. Hence there should be other ways to evaluate the performance of a student, in addition to marks.

- V.Priya, Std. X, MES Kishora Kendra, Bengalooru

Some students become nervous during the exams and do not perform well. It is not fair to judge them by this performance.

- Kishore Gopalakrishnan, Std.VI, RSK Higher Secondary School, Trichy

I do agree that securing marks is one of the criteria to check whether the student has understood concepts clearly or

not. But knowledge is a big ocean and marks are just a few drops in it. So, the child should not have any parental or peer pressure to score marks in exams.

- V.Ramya, Std.XII,
PSBBSS School,
Chennai

Marks can be used to assess not the student , but his studiousness.

- H.Ganesh, Std.XII,
K.V.No:1, Palakkad

Yes , Of course, a student should be assessed on the basis of marks, as it not only helps the student but also his parents and teachers to know about his weakness and strengths and guide him for further improvement.

- Abhishek Chatterjee,
Std. X, DAV Public School,
Bhubaneshwar
- V.Mahalakshmi,
Std. IX, AMC School,
Bengalooru

I do not doubt the fact that our educational system is faulty because it makes us memorise and not think. Many do not get their basics right, as they memorise even maths problems for marks. If at all our education system were to measure a student's creativity and his deep understanding of the subject, (like ICSE,CBSE) only then can he be assessed on the basis of marks.

- R.Lakshmi,
Std.XII, T.V.S. Mat. Hr. Sec.
School, Madurai

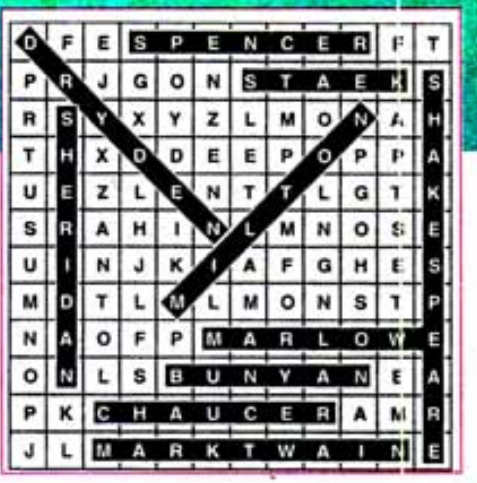
Can you find the heritage sites of India hidden in this grid..? The solutions run across horizontally, vertically, diagonally, left to right and right to left. Grid compiled by **R. Prathibha**, Std VI, St.Lourde's High School, Bengalooru.

Gogo's Grid-12

R	P	G	B	U	R	A	R	P	G	P	H	R	I	G
T	R	O	F	D	E	R	W	L	F	M	R	Q	O	L
A	B	L	W	A	J	V	A	A	H	K	N	J	E	R
D	C	C	M	T	C	H	A	R	M	I	N	A	R	A
P	J	O	I	U	A	X	L	G	B	R	I	D	C	T
U	S	N	U	M	K	B	N	L	S	A	A	N	O	N
Z	F	D	J	A	R	O	J	Z	I	N	J	F	P	A
Y	W	A	J	G	Q	S	U	N	C	I	M	V	Y	M
T	T	F	X	T	K	I	D	M	E	M	E	P	J	R
F	E	O	H	Y	C	I	X	C	D	B	R	G	Q	A
R	N	R	V	O	A	S	D	Z	B	U	F	E	R	T
O	Q	T	L	G	N	M	Y	F	H	T	O	W	V	N
J	A	M	A	M	A	S	J	I	D	U	R	Q	T	A
K	M	T	I	X	Z	A	P	L	E	Q	T	K	D	J
G	E	H	B	M	O	T	S	N	U	Y	A	M	U	H

Send in your entry after filling in the form on the reverse of this page.

Gogo's Grid - 10



Congratulations!

The Winners of Gogo's Grid - 10 (Gokulam May '07 issue) are:

1. *R.Maithreyi, Std VII, SRDF Vivekananda Vidyalaya, Chennai -44*
2. *T.Guruprasad, Std VI, Kolaperumal Chetty Vaishnav School, Chennai*
3. *Diganta Jena, Std IX, D.A.V. Public School, Bhubaneswar*
4. *B.Bibaswan, Std VII, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Puducherry*
5. *V.Akshaya, Std IX, St.Joseph of Cluny GHSS, Puducherry*

Besides the answers given above, 'Pope' and 'Poe' have also been accepted as right answers. See if you can find them!

Gogo's Grid - 12 ENTRY FORM

Name : (Mr/Ms) .....

Age : ..... Class .....

School : .....

*Residential Address : .....

.....Pin .....

Signature : .....

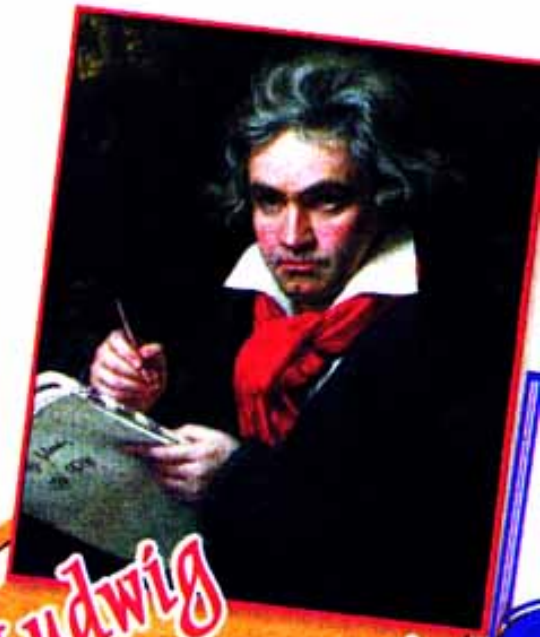
* Local address is a must for overseas entries.

The Editor, Gokulam, Kalki Buildings,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032.

• Strictly for school going children • Five lucky winners will get a cash award of Rs.50/- each. They will be decided by a draw of lots from out of the all correct entries. • Entries with completed grid on the reverse accepted on this form only • No xerox copies.

Last Date : 15.07.2007

Ludwig Van Beethoven



Beethoven was born on December 16, 1770 in Bonn, Germany. His father and grandfather were court musicians. Beethoven got his first lesson in music from his father and showed signs of promise and was encouraged by his father. He gave his first public performance when he was barely seven years old.

In 1787, he went to Vienna, a great centre for music. There he met Mozart, the great musician who said, "One day Beethoven will force the world to talk about him."

Beethoven made his first public appearance at Vienna in 1795. Mozart's prophecy came true. Beethoven won fame and acclaim.

But by the year 1798, a great tragedy overtook him. He began to suffer from a hearing disorder. It worsened gradually and at last he became stark deaf by 1819. This made him very depressed and he started shunning company. He even attempted suicide.

His deafness meant the end of his career as a pianist, so Beethoven plunged into composing music. He retired to a village and the natural beauty of the surroundings inspired him to greater heights.

In the autumn of 1826, he was down with pneumonia. It worsened and finally he died in 1827. His funeral was attended by about 20,000 people!

Beethoven's works include 9 symphonies, 32 sonatas, 5 concertos, 17 quartettes and one opera. It was really a great irony of fate that he himself could not hear his own music, which transported his audience to another world.

- C.R.Vishnu, Std.XI,
Vana Vani MHSS, Chennai

To Make

In today's extremely competitive world, it has become very difficult to draw public attention to a product. Groups and companies have sprung up everywhere. In such situations, advertisements play an essential part. Since there is a lot of creativity in people today, they come up with exquisite ideas for advertisements. In order to enhance the beauty and thrust of advertisements, celebrities are in great demand. They model for different products which come to be associated with them. Leading companies mostly featured on the television like Garnier, Lays, Lux, Fair n' Lovely etc are leaders in featuring splendid ads. They know how to leave their mark on the people. Some times just powerful visuals without words can make you buy a product!

Nowadays children very strongly influence their parents' choice.

GLAMOUR!

Advertisements build the foundation for the progress of a company. The television today is crammed with advertisements of various companies Beauty products, household equipments, food, kids' equipment, even ball point pens are widely advertised. It is through the advertisements that a newly established company can increase its customers.

Advertisements display the goods made by companies. They inform the public about the features of a product in a glamorous way so that ordinary people are attracted towards it. They can be found in newspapers, huge boards put up on roadsides, banners or buildings. They can be

a Sale!

KIDS IN ADS!

Another disturbing factor is the increasing trend of using child models for advertisements. Many products which children don't use directly, are advertised in this way. This is happening because nowadays children very strongly influence their parents' choice. But is it right to convert young impressionable minds into mere consumers?... This is an issue that has to be addressed by the advertisement world.

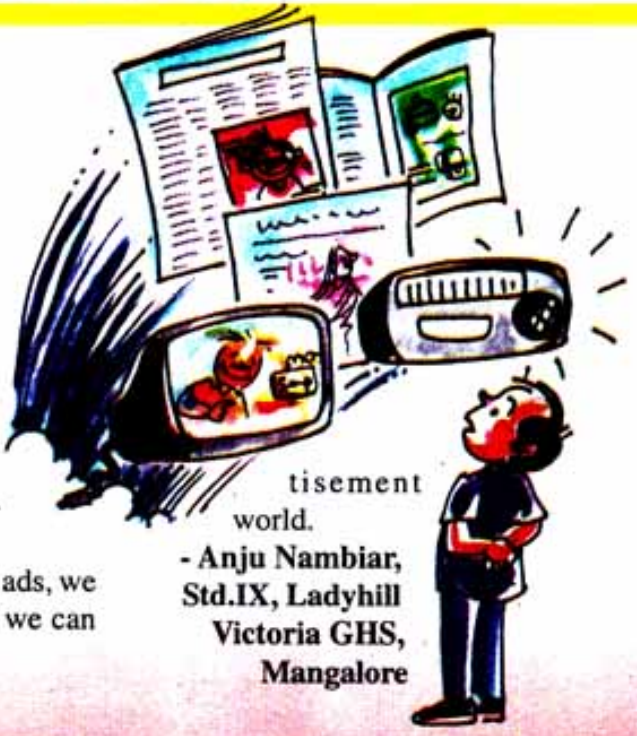
seen everywhere.

BEWARE!

Some ads may be pretty good but the products they advertise may not be worth even quarter of the claim made by the ad.

It is the customer who has to beware; be discreet and careful in the way he interprets advertisements.

It we get carried away by ads, we end up spending more than we can afford.



- Anju Nambiar, Std.IX, Ladyhill Victoria GHS, Mangalore

Name : **Abhishek Hari**
Age : 18
Address : 1084, Pushp Sadan, Mahaveer Nagar - 1, Kota - 324 005. Rajasthan
Hobbies: Philately, reading, playing outdoors, gardening, writing to penpals.

Name : **Shamkumar .P.S**
Age : 13
Address : Plot No:4, Sivasakthi Nagar 1st cross street, Ex II, Raja - kilpakkam, V.G.P. Nagar, Chennai-600 073
Hobbies: Coin collecting and collecting rare things.

Name : **S.Naheeda Banu**
Age : 13
Address : St.Ann's Matriculation School, Vasanth Nagar, Hosur - 635 109
Hobbies: Dancing, singing, playing, listening to music, playing computer and video games, chatting with friends.

Name : **Rushab R.Bhandari**
Age : 14
Address : C/o Ramesh Bhandari, opposite to Indian Bank, Hiregoudar Chawl, Ashok Circle, Ranebennur, Karnataka - 581 115
Hobbies: Reading books, gardening, cycling, watching W.W.F.on T.V., playing shuttle cock.

Name : **Neha .S. Kundapur**
Age : 14

Read On, Be

Address : D/o Suresh .R.Kundapur, Kengeri Satellite Town, KHB Colony, BLD No-15, Door No:342, Bangalore- 560 060

Hobbies: Reading, making friends, dancing, singing, chatting, reading HP series.

Name : **Sharanagoudha .S.D.**

Age : 15

Address : 3714, VIJ House, Xth Std, Sainik School, Bijapur, Karnataka - 586 102

Hobbies: Horse riding, swimming, playing snooker, reading novels.

Name : **F.Misba Taj**

Age : 13

Address : St.Ann's Matriculation School, Vasanth Nagar, Hosur-635 109

Hobbies: Playing indoor games like table tennis, video games etc., singing, dancing, drawing, painting, watching T.V., listening to music, reading books.

Name : **Rohini**

Age : 12

Address : No:2870, 'Y' block, 3rd Street, 12th main Road, Anna Nagar, Chennai

Hobbies: Reading Harry Potter books, playing badminton, watching Harry Potter movies, listening to music.

Friends!

Name : **S.Ganesh**

Age : 12

Address : 28/303, Neelaswaram gramam, Patturaikkal, Thrissur - 22

Hobbies: Playing, craft work, watching T.V., and gardening.

Name : **Kavya Bharat**

Age : 11

Address : B-8, 'Swarnamukhi', Old No.57, New No.38, 3rd Main Road, Gandhi Nagar, Adyar, Chennai 600 020

Hobbies: Reading books and magazines, playing tennis, writing stories, doing craft work, watching M.A.D. on Pogo channel.

Name : **Smita S.Joshi**

Age : 14

Address : 204, Premier Grihalakshmi Apts, 42/71, Perambur High Road, Chennai - 60 012

Hobbies: Collecting stamps, reading, watching T.V., making greeting cards.

Name : **Swagatika Patasahani**

Age : 14

Address : Type 5 quarters, New CPWD quarters, 44/4, Besant Nagar, Chennai - 90.

Hobbies: Making new friends, playing badminton, reading novels, sending e-mails and also listening to bollywood and hollywood music.

Here is a new goal set and achieved by England's football players. The goal post is charity. Yes, the players have decided to donate their international wages to charity!

In the next four years, the team plans to donate over one million pounds for cancer research.

NO PROGRESS

It's one year since Bob Houghton became the Indian soccer coach. Bob is sad that there isn't any progress over the past one year. Why? Because, according to Bob, there is no international exposure for the team. Hence, no new learning! The team has slipped to 165th position in the FIFA rankings.

Bob is quite frank about the team. Hope his frankness helps the team to move forward!

"MONICA IS MY MODEL!"

Ana Ivanovic's role model is Monica Seles. Inspired by watching Monica on television, this Serbian girl entered the tennis court. Though Ana lost to Just in Henin in the recent French Open tennis final, she is quite enthusiastic about the participation.

"I have no superstitions on court but I do follow my own little ritual. Before a match I need to be alone. I need to reach concentration and focus on the game ahead of me. The same after a match. I need some quiet moments to handle the result be it positive or negative." says Ana!

• Ana Ivanovic

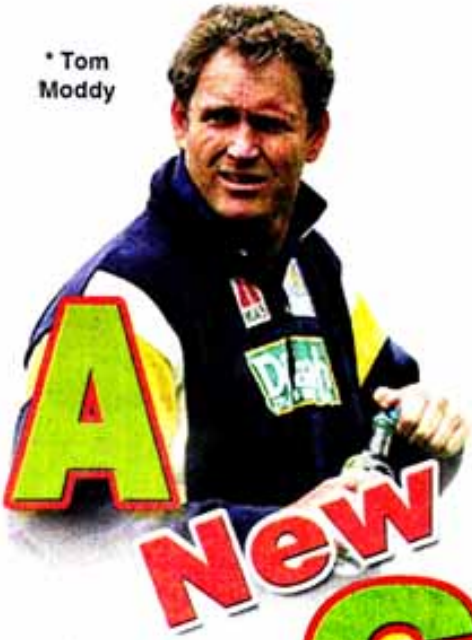
• Bob Houghton

A New Goal!

WORLD CUP HOCKEY

All hockey lovers out there! This one is for you...

FIH-Indian Hockey Confederation joint venture has confirmed hosting the 2010 World Cup Hockey tournament in New Delhi. The event will be managed by a governing body of eight persons appointed by them. The IHC had earlier successfully hosted Men's Champions Trophy twice in Chennai (1995 and 2005).



* Tom Moddy

GOOD BYE TOM!

Sri Lankan coach Tom Moddy said bye bye to cricket last month. He was 41 when he retired. The retirement came as a surprise to many. Because Tom was tipped to be the future coach for Australia.

This is what Sri Lankan players have got to say about Tom :

"The best thing that we saw in him was that he insisted on us playing our Sri Lankan brand of cricket. He reminded us not to imitate any other team and encouraged players to believe in their talents. His role was massive in developing the team."

- S.N.Kannan

* England football team

The Key

Dear Grandma,

I try to impress my teachers, but my friend says, "I don't know the key to success; but the key to failure is to impress others." Is this true?

- P.S.Evangel, Visakhapatnam

Dear Evangel,

Your friend in only partly correct. One can impress another either by foolishness or cleverness. For example trying to impress your teacher by being a show off will not help. On the other hand, you can really impress others in various ways like studying well; being humble and kind; through sensible conversation; enlightened speech etc. So choose the right way for you to impress others and you will be a winner.

★ ★ ★

My parents say that history is an easy subject. But I'm able to score only 75%. Please help me to study history.

- M.Saravana Bharathi, New Delhi

Dear Saravana,

Wow! 75% is not a poor score! A little more effort and you'll be scoring 85% in history as you do in other subjects. History is easy for those who are interested in it. For others it may be boring. However as a seventh standard student you can't escape studying history. Read a few historical novels in their retold versions. This may help to kindle your interest in history.

★ ★ ★

I'm fourteen years old and I feel I'm too fat. What is the proper weight for a fourteen year old girl?

- R.Krishnaveni, Nagercoil

Dear Krishnaveni,

Your weight should be in proportion to your height. Your family doctor can guide you. If you are really over weight, burn up calories

by exercising. If you don't like outdoor games, a brisk walk for thirty minutes will help. Avoid fried food; take more of green, leafy vegetables and fruits. Above all stop eating when your stomach is ½ to ¾th full. Drink plenty of (boiled and cooled) water.

★ ★ ★

My friends say I can grow tall by joining basket ball classes. But my father will not allow it. I'm scared that I will not grow tall!

- B.Shwetha Rao, Mangalore

Dear Shwetha,

Growing tall has nothing to do with basket ball classes. On the other hand tall people feel that they can do well in basket ball. This is only partly true, since other skills are also required to excel in the game. If you are not tall enough for your age, you can practise yogasana under expert care. This will help you to grow tall besides ensuring good health.

★ ★ ★

I do have imagination, but I'm unable to write. How can I improve my vocabulary to write interesting stories?

- Varsha Ganesh

to Success and Failure!

Dear Varsha,

If you want to write stories, you have to read a lot of stories written by different authors. After reading a story think about the way it has been written. The more you think, about its technique and language the more you will begin to observe life around you. Your writing skills will grow.

H.P Meets JKR Competition

Prize Winning Entry

HP : Hello, Mrs.Rowling! I never thought I would get to meet my creator! A blessing in disguise.

JKR : Why! I am pleased to meet you too!

HP : I have a few questions that I've been wanting to ask you, may I?

JKR : It would be my pleasure to answer them! Ask away.

HP : Firstly, why haven't you given me a family?

JKR : Aren't the Dursleys your family?

HP : Yes they are... but they don't exactly behave that way, do they? I mean, why kill my parents?

JKR : Hmm... I expected this! But tell me Harry, would you have been as famous as you are today, had your parents been alive?

HP : But you could have figured out some other way to make me famous! And, why a lightning shaped scar on my forehead? I'm tired of people gaping at it!!

JKR : Another reason you are famous! You seem to be complaining a lot! But tell me, haven't you been enjoying yourself with Ron and Hermione?

HP : Ofcourse! They are the best things that have happened to me! I really must thank you for that!

JKR : Thankyou Harry! If you would want me to change something about you, what would it be?

Spellbound!

HP : Bring back Sirius and Dumbledore and I'd love to see Voldemort perish. But since my fate is already decided, I guess I'll have to wait and see, right?

JKR : Right! Lets see if its worthwhile!

HP : I hope it is! There are a lot of questions I'd like the answers to, but I'm so spellbound meeting you, only the obvious ones come out.

JKR : You'll get the answers to your unasked questions soon!

HP : Thanks! Been a pleasure talking to you!

JKR : Pleasure is mine!

- Roshni Parthasarathy, Std.IX, Divine Child High School, Mumbai

(Other winning entries will be published in forthcoming issues.)

Jokes

Speak Softly!

Ram : What does vice mean?

Mom : A vice means a bad habit, like smoking or drinking.

Ram : But I don't have any vices, then why did the teacher appoint me as the vice captain of the cricket team.

-T.M.Shilpa, Std.VIII, DTEA JKP,

Teacher : Those who teach are called teachers. Rahul, give me another example.

Rahul : Those who slip are called slippers.

- N.Shubha, Age 15, Vani Vidyalaya, Dombivli East

One day in a shop the sugar had just arrived. When a customer came there.

Customer : Oh! Sugar at last... What is the price?

Shopkeeper : Speak softly; the ants will hear you!

- Bhagyashree Chaudhari, Std.VIII, Bal Shikshan Mandir English Medium School, Pune

From Here and There

● The Amazon river is the longest stretch of navigable water in the world - about 37,000 kms long!

● Seaweeds do not have roots, proper stems, leaves, flower or fruits. They grip the rock with 'holdfasts' which are disc-like pads at the end of strong threads.

● In the olden days, in many parts of the world, when a scientist said that the earth was round, he was punished!!

● There are very tall mountains under the sea. Some are even taller than Mount Everest! When their peaks stick out of the water, they make islands! Hawaii and the Andamans are examples of such islands.

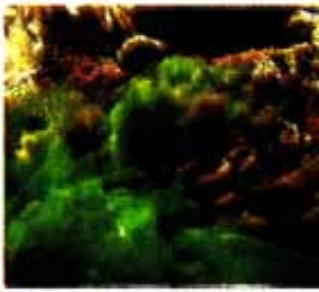
● Grandpa 'Pat', an US army horse, lived to the age of forty five!

● The windiest place in the world is Commonwealth Bay, Antartica, where gales blow at a speed of 200 mph!

● Thirty five percent of all Americans are overweight; twenty percent of them are obese!

• A boat on the Amazon

• Clinging seaweed



Mountains Under the Sea!

• Hawaii islands- aerial view

● The composition of paper on which money is printed, is one of the Government's most closely guarded secrets!

(- Source: Various G.K - Books)

Compiled by **P.Archanaa, Pune, Payal Prasad, Std VII, Kolkata, Aparna Nambiar, Std IX, Mysore.**

BILLU

Story, Picture
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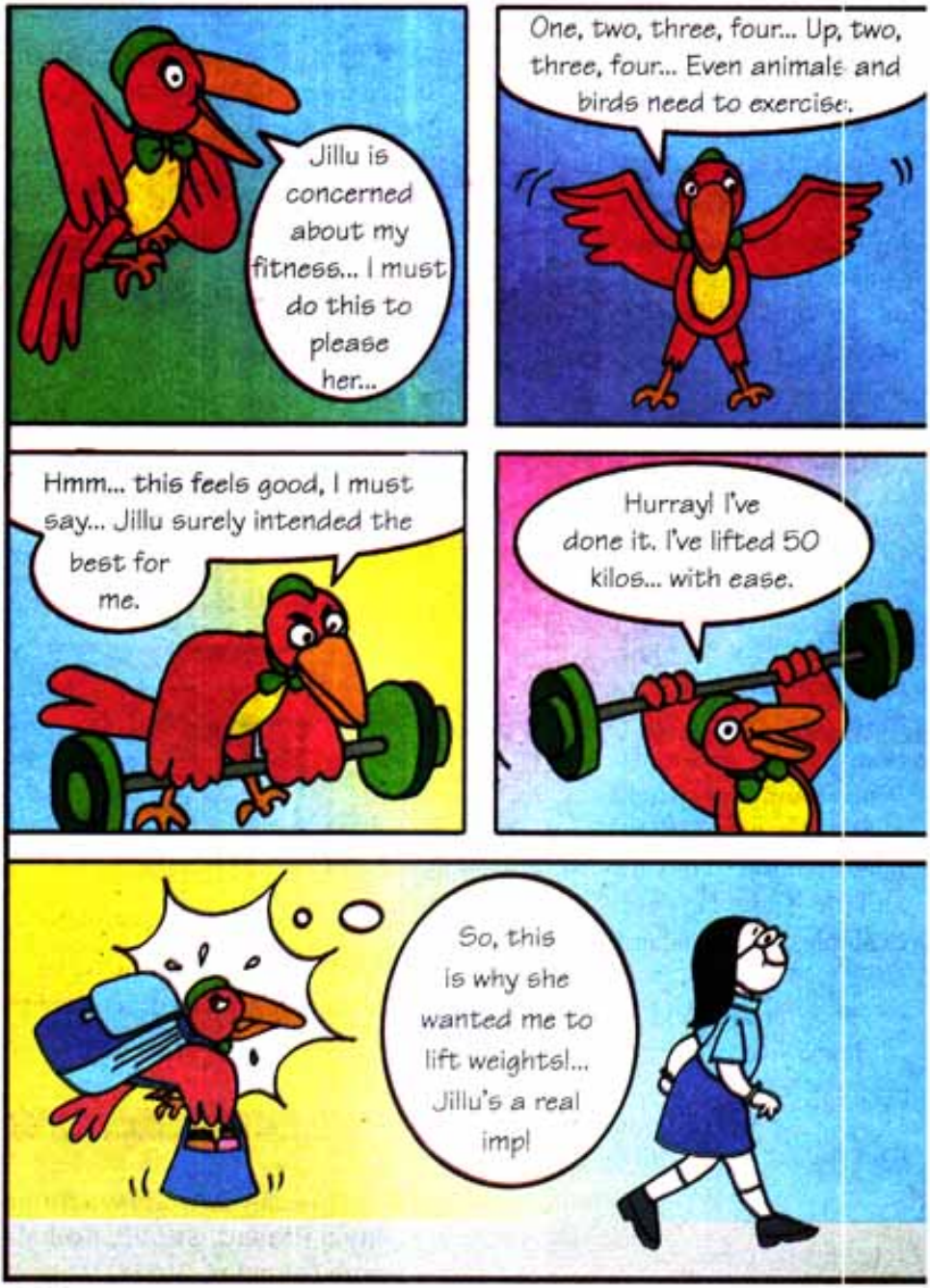

B.N.Nethravathi, Std IX,
St.Mary`s School,Bengalooru.

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THE FUNKIEST BIKES IN TOWN